85-4427/

EARLY CANADIAN COURT HOUSES

compiled by Margaret Carter

Studies in Archaeology
Architecture and History

National Historic Parks and Sites Branch
Parks Canada
Environment Canada
1983

©Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1983.

Available in Canada through authorized bookstore agents and other bookstores, or by mail from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S9.

La traduction française s'intitule **Les premiers palais de justice au Canada** (nº de catalogue R61-2/9-2F). En vente au Canada par l'entremise de nos agents libraires agréés et autres librairies, ou par la poste au Centre d'édition du gouvernement du Canada, Approvisionnements et Services Canada, Hull, Québec, Canada K1A 0S9.

Price Canada: $13.95
Price other countries: $16.75
Price subject to change without notice.

Catalogue No.: R61-2/9-2E
ISBN: 0-660-11315-5

Published under the authority
of the Minister of the Environment,
Ottawa, 1983.

Editor: Paula Irving.

Cover design by Werner Wicke.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Environment Canada.

EARLY CANADIAN COURT HOUSES

compiled by Margaret Carter

4 **Abstract**

5 **Acknowledgements**

7 **The Canadian Court House: An Overview**
Margaret Carter

21 **Early Court Houses of Newfoundland**
R.R. Rostecki

37 **Early Court Houses of the Maritime Provinces**
C.A. Hale

78 **Early Court Houses of Quebec**
André Giroux

100 **Early Court Houses of Ontario**
Kelly Crossman and Dana Johnson

130 **Early Court Houses of the Old Territorial North West and the Prairie Provinces**
G.E. Mills, R.R. Rostecki, C.J. Taylor and Margaret Carter

169 **Early Court Houses of British Columbia**
G.E. Mills

199 **Conclusion**
Margaret Carter

201 **Appendix**

235 **Endnotes**

251 **Bibliography**

ABSTRACT

Court houses are among the most conspicuous public buildings in Canada. Their prominence reflects the importance Canadians have long attached to their courts as instruments of justice and symbols of social stability. This study examines the early surviving examples of this building type within the context of the court systems they were built to serve, the choice of designs and means of construction employed in various parts of the country during its formative years, and the roles the buildings subsequently performed within their respective communities. To this end all extant court houses built before 1914 in the East and before 1930 in northern Ontario and the western provinces have been individually researched. The buildings are grouped and described by region (east to west), since the various colonial, territorial and provincial systems of administration ultimately determined the methods and means of court house construction and the functions they were intended to serve. In addition, an appendix, divided into regions (east to west) with each region organized alphabetically by city, provides a summary of basic data collected on all examples extant in 1976-77 when the study was commenced.

Submitted for publication 1980, by Margaret Carter, Head, Architectural History, Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Parks Canada, Ottawa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To accomplish this analysis of detailed information on buildings in all parts of Canada, we owe a large debt of gratitude to individuals and institutions across the country, many of whom have encouraged us through their own enthusiasm for the subject.

Valuable assistance in providing information on Newfoundland court houses was given by the staffs of the following institutions: the Newfoundland Archives, the Conception Bay Museum (Harbour Grace), the province's Department of Public Works and the Maritime History Group at Memorial University. Additional material was submitted from Gordon W. Simmons of Harbour Grace, Judge Rupert W. Bartlett of Brigus, Magistrate T.J. Corbett and Gus Mooney of Placentia, Shane O'Dea of St. John's, F.G. Squires of Bonavista, Rupert Morris of Trinity, and Frank Pearce and Donald C. Hollett of Burin.

In the Maritime provinces, we wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the various provincial archives. Richard Ramsey, former assistant archivist, and W.R. McKinnon, map curator, both of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, offered many helpful suggestions. The research in New Brunswick was enhanced considerably by the advice and historical information provided during the course of research and writing by the Historical Resources Administration in New Brunswick, in particular Ruth Gratton, Robert Power and David Myles. In Nova Scotia, Gary Shutlack, map archivist at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and Scot Robson of the Nova Scotia Museum were especially helpful. Both the New Brunswick Department of Supply and Services and the Prince Edward Island Department of Public Works made available contemporary plans of many of the buildings discussed. Many local individuals, historical societies and county clerks and their staffs generously offered information and assistance during the research stage. This was particularly important in areas where early records were scanty and not centralized.

In Quebec we thank the employees of the Department of Public Works, those of the Archives nationales du Québec, those of Public Archives Canada and the various county clerks and registry officers for the information they provided on court houses in their localities.

We also acknowledge the staffs of the following Ontario institutions: the Archives of Ontario (Toronto), the Ministry of Government Services (Toronto), the City of Toronto Archives (Toronto), the Metropolitan Toronto Library, the National Capital Commission (Ottawa), Public Archives Canada (Ottawa), the Peterborough Centennial Museum, the St. Catharines Historical Museum, the Lennox and Addington County Museum (Napanee), the Eva Brook Donly Museum (Simcoe), the Perth County Archives (Stratford), and the Simcoe County Archives (Minesing). For assistance on individual buildings, substantial debts are owed to Brian Winter of Whitby, Margaret Angus of Kingston, Martha Kidd of Peterborough, R.H Foulds of Chatham, K.I. Coulthart of Perth, R. Ouimet of L'Orignal, Kenneth Jarvis and Charles Johnston of Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and Mrs. Margaret Van Derploeg of Toronto.

For research assistance on the federal territorial court houses, we are much indebted to Public Archives Canada for the excellent organization of its Federal Government records, and to the University of Washington and the Provincial Archives of British Columbia for the excellent photographs they providded. T.G. Fuller of Ottawa is most gratefully thanked for photographs of his father's Yukon activities, as is Margaret Archibald of Parks Canada for her generous extention of pertinent research notes and comments on Yukon court facilities.

Research on Manitoba court houses was simplified by the cooperation and assistance of the staff of the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. For information on individual buildings, we are indebted to Sheriff J.J. Hassard of Portage la Prairie and Mr. Justice T.G. Mathers of the Manitoba Court of King's Bench. Since the surviving court houses of Saskatchewan were designed and constructed under the control of the province's Department of Public Works, most of the work on these buildings depended upon the assistance of the staff of the Saskatchewan Archives. On specific buildings, information was received from Maurice Sheppard, Cyril Huggett

(Director of Court Services for the Province of Saskatchewan) and Durward Carleton. In Alberta, we are grateful for the cooperation of Diana Bodnar of the Historic Resources Division of Alberta Culture, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the provincial Department of Housing and Public Works, the Glenbow-Alberta Institute and His Honour, Judge L. Sherman Turcotte of Lethbridge, Alberta.

Information and assistance in the preparation of the British Columbia section of the study was provided by the Visual Records and Manuscript Division of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Don Tarasov of the Historic Resources Division of the Department of the (B.C.) Provincial Secretary, as well as the Vancouver City Archives and the North West Reading Room and Visual Records Sections of the Vancouver Public Library.

We also thank the support staff at Parks Canada and especially research assistant Elizabeth Moxley and Mark Henry for their assistance during the course of this study.

THE CANADIAN COURT HOUSE: AN OVERVIEW

Margaret Carter

Court houses acquire their identity as a building type from the common primary function they serve: they house the seat of justice in their localities. Since the administration of justice is one of the major functions of government in any society, there has long been a need for its accommodation in Canada. Before the coming of the white man this was undoubtedly filled by Indian council houses in some communities. The first courts held by Europeans in Canada were probably conducted by ruling fishing admirals aboard ships off Newfoundland: Sir Richard Whitbourne certainly held his inquiry into the fisheries in such quarters in 1615. During the French regime the judicial tribunal, the Superior Council, sat in the Intendant's palaces in Quebec City, Montreal and Louisbourg. In the West, the Council of Assiniboia, the authority responsible for judicial administration during the last years of the Hudson's Bay Company's reign in Rupert's Land, commandeered an old warehouse inside Fort Garry to use as court quarters when appointed in 1835. Before that time, justice was dispensed at the discretion of the chief factor - wherever he might happen to be.

While these examples establish the existence of judicial procedures in the early stages of Canadian development, they also underline one extremely important factor about the origin of Canadian court houses. Buildings constructed and used specifically for the purpose of judicial administration - that is, court houses - did not appear in most areas of Canada until a system of British justice had been established. While in some specific cases this circumstance was undoubtedly caused by the fundamental nature of the authority and its temporary requirement for facilities, all of the judicial organizations mentioned earlier were in effect for a considerable period without feeling the need to construct court houses. Indeed, the only one of these authorities that ever did occupy specific court quarters, the Council of Assiniboia, did so only after the Selkirk settlers moved into Rupert's Land and began to pressure for the institution of British law - a council and regularized judicial situation. This not only indicates that an early connection between the operation of the judicial system and the occurrence and nature of its accommodation exists, it also suggests that the British judicial system had a peculiar functional requirement for the specific type of quarters known as the court house.

At least part of this requirement seems to have arisen from the British practice of involving citizens in judicial proceedings - both as spectators and participants - in surroundings familiar to them. In fact, both the superior and inferior court systems the British introduced to British North America incorporated provisions for regular court proceedings in local communities. Although the first was a court of superior jurisdiction and appeal based in the colonial capital, superior court judges held regular sessions at specified local towns known as assizes. The inferior courts were more decentralized and established in smaller administrative areas known as counties. Inferior or county courts were subdivided into two types: minor courts of civil jurisdiction which not only sat in the county seat (or major town of the county) but themselves conducted circuit sessions throughout the county at specified intervals during the year, and the courts of quarter sessions. The latter were minor criminal courts which sat in the county seat only a maximum of four times a year; nevertheless, the courts of quarter sessions were responsible for the construction of many of the court houses in British North America before Confederation.

This circumstance developed as a result of British colonial policy during its second major stage, that following the American Revolution. In the pre-revolutionary era, British colonies in the New World had been officially administered by the strongly centralized authority of their governors. Since governors changed regularly and operated from colonial capitals while the population remained both stable and isolated in remote areas, this system was not always effective. Citizens set up meetings in their neighbouring town halls or

meeting houses to attend to matters of immediate importance, and these meetings acquired considerable governmental authority on the local level. Meanwhile, the governor retained control of his council and the appointment of assize court judges who, as the only colonial officials to regularly visit most communities, were specifically instructed to keep the governor informed about their affairs. Remnants of this system can still be found in Nova Scotia, the fourteenth colony, where the Barrington meeting house has survived as evidence of the strength of locally elected authority. It was this tendency towards local autonomy that the British attempted to undercut in the colonial policy they adopted after 1776.

While the judicial system in England provided the model for North American courts during both the first and second British empires, it had itself undergone some changes by the time court systems were established in the second group of North American colonies (the colonies that in 1867 became Canada). These changes included the establishment of an inferior court system on the county level, and it was to this system that Britain turned as a model. Recognizing the importance of immediacy as a result of their experience with the first American colonies, the British not only divided the British North American colonies into county units by population and set up inferior courts in each, they also endowed the courts of quarter sessions with the authority for local government. This action removed the need for locally elected bodies since the appointed courts of quarter sessions possessed not only judicial authority but also the power to levy taxes and build and maintain public works. As a result, the construction of court houses to accommodate inferior courts (and as a matter of convenience usually assize courts as well) became a county responsibility.

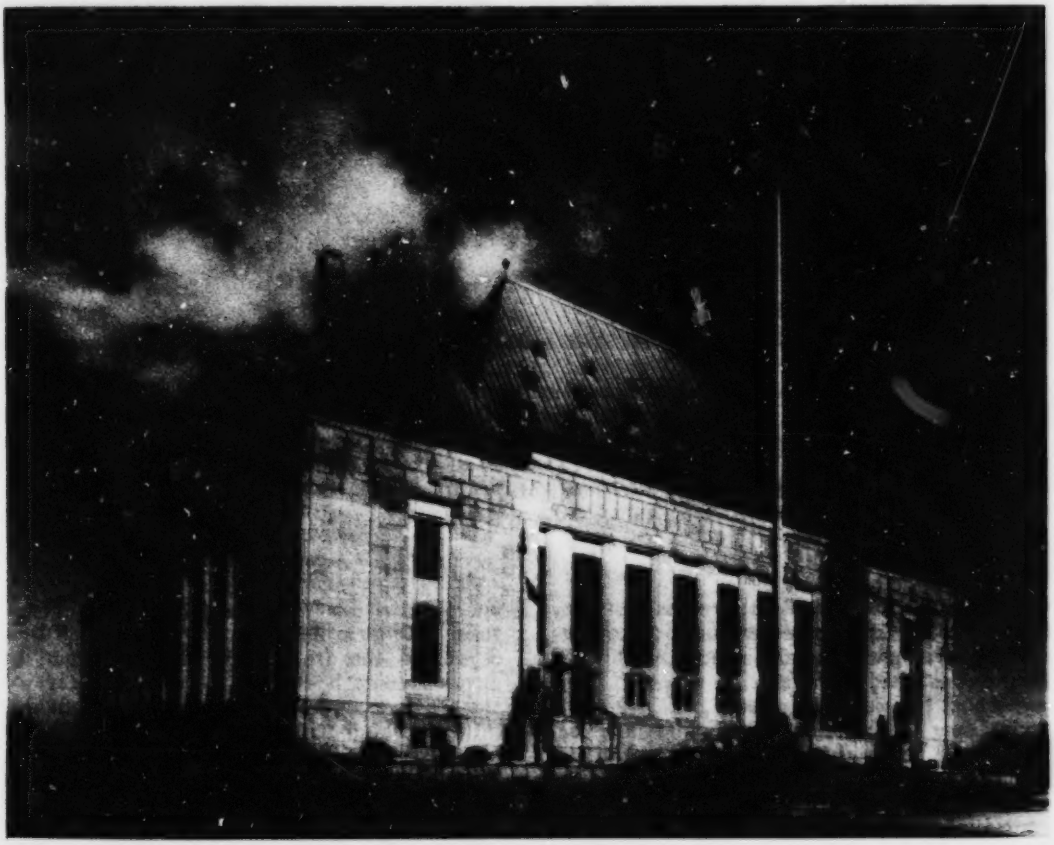
This county system was introduced in most British colonies in what is now Canada - Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper Canada and British Columbia - during their formative years. It did not appear in Lower Canada until after the union of 1841 or in Prince Edward Island until after Confederation, and when it did it was more as a level of judicial proceeding than as a local administrative body. Indeed, the degree of alliance or separation of the county function of court from that of local administrative body varied from colony to colony; however, the division became more frequent with the appearance of responsible government and incumbent public control of the purse strings. While the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick chose to elect county officials upon whom they bestowed the powers of the old courts of quarter sessions (including the construction of court houses) after they achieved responsible government, the other colonies treated the matter differently. British Columbia, the Canadas, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland all opted for a centralized policy of public works expenditure which left responsibility for the construction of court houses with their colonial (or provincial) governments.

As a result, when the Confederation discussions began, each colony possessed a strong colonial system of courts which it administered according to its own requirements; consequently, it is not surprising that the British North America Act left the administration of justice as well as the responsibility for the construction and maintenance of judicial facilities to the individual provinces. One interesting offshoot of this occurrence was the selection of a different type of court house administration by each part of the United Canadas which had been separated again by Confederation. Ontario returned to the locally administered form under which the majority of its court houses had been built, adopting a county system similar to that found in New Brunswick. Quebec, however, retained the centrally oriented body under which most of its district judicial buildings have been constructed. In short, the major effect of Confederation on the administration of justice and judicial buildings in those provinces that had been British colonies beforehand was to reaffirm the individual peculiarities they had already developed, and to confirm their right to propitiate more. This situation, exacerbated by differing chronological development and geographical circumstances, has resulted in the treatment of some pre-Confederation colonial areas as separate court house regions in the essays that follow.

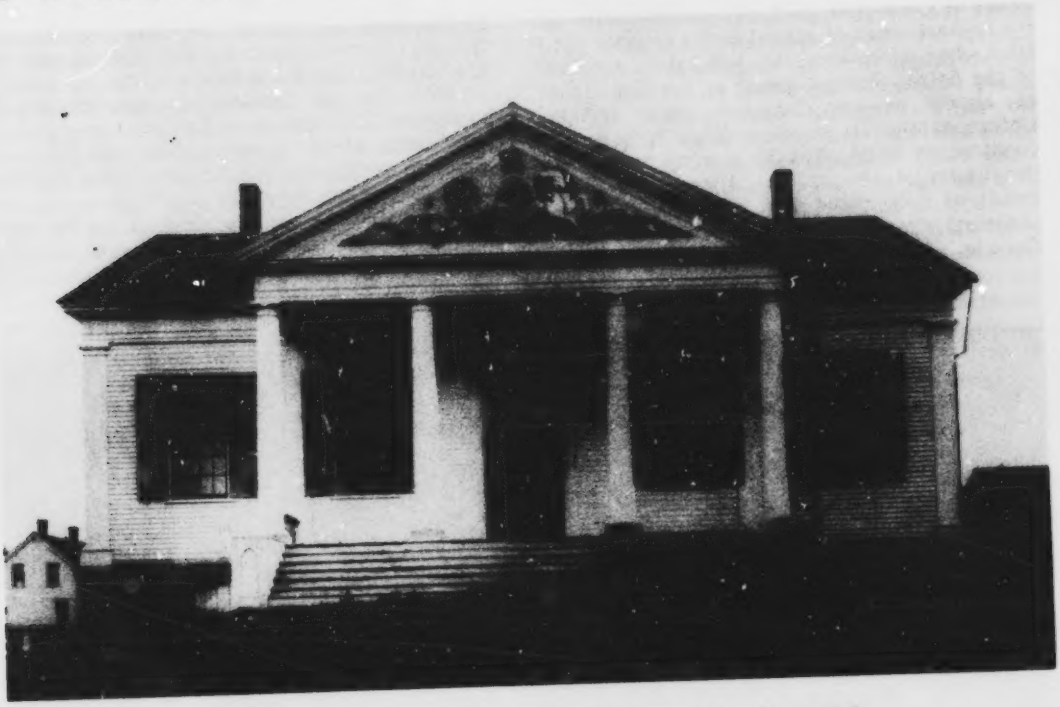
There were two other consequences of the establishment of a Canadian nation related to judicial organization and accommodation. First, it laid the groundwork for the Supreme

Court of Canada in 1875. This court acted as the highest court of appeal in the country until 1949 when it replaced the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council as the final court of appeal in the Canadian legal system. Unfortunately, its quarters (Fig. 1) were not constructed until 1938-39 placing it outside the limits of this study. The second major result of nationhood was the Canadian purchase of the Hudson's Bay lands in western Canada, which necessitated a Canadian brand of territorial administration providing for both the existence of courts and the construction of the buildings needed to house them.

When the new Canadian Government began to frame this system, it had no clear precedent upon which to act. The only feature common to all established provincial judicial systems was two levels of courts, superior and inferior. These were embodied in the new Canadian system as territorial and district courts. District courts were the equivalent of



1 Supreme Court of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Built 1938-39; Ernest Cormier, architect. This building houses the Supreme Court of Canada and is our only national court house. Unfortunately, its construction post-dates the court houses considered in this study. (Parks Canada)



2 Charlotte County Court House, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
Built 1839-40; designed by building committee. This simple court house illustrates well the domestic traditions of its type even though its builder, Thomas Berry, amended the original plans by adding ornamentation at considerable cost to himself. Local authorities must have agreed his changes were in keeping with the court house's status, for they later reimbursed him for the extra costs. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

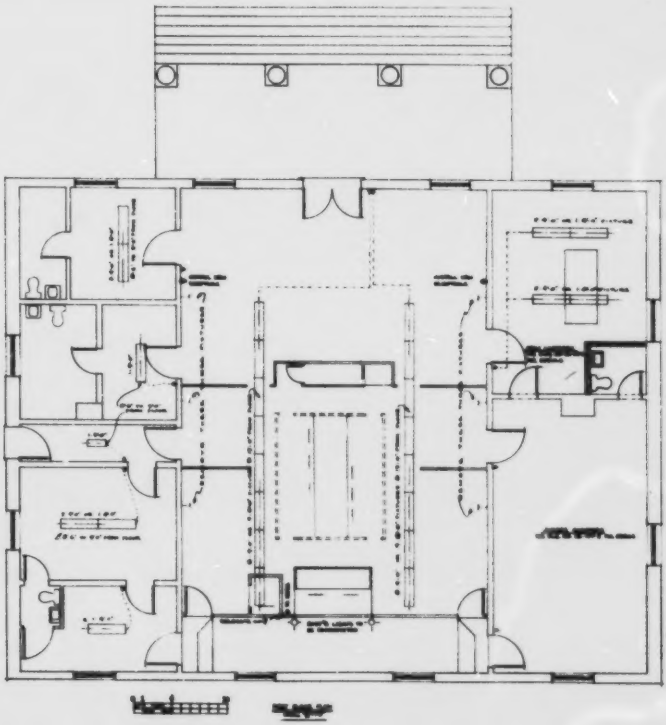
county courts in the judicial process, but they held no local administrative function; consequently, the new judicial districts established in the West had no authority to erect their own court houses - nor, indeed, did the territorial court. Judicial buildings in the old Northwest Territory were constructed by the Department of Public Works of the Federal Government in Ottawa under a highly centralized administrative authority.

This system operated throughout the West, treating it as a single unit until portions separated to become provinces. As a result, it formed the base for the early administration of justice and judicial buildings in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and it is still operable in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Ontario liked the system so much that it copied the framework when it began to develop court houses in the northern part of the province in the 1880s: the area was divided into judicial districts, then building design was assigned to a central Department of Public Works in Toronto. Indeed, the system must have functioned effectively, for the new western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta all opted to retain its provisions when they established their own governments. As a result, all three provinces have judicial systems with two levels of courts and a centralized authority for court house construction. Since these new provincial

organisms share common roots in their territorial predecessor, and all evolved within similar geographical conditions and time periods, it has been possible to treat all portions of the old Northwest Territory as one region of court house development in the following essays.

As the preceding indicates, court house accommodation in Canada has generally been influenced by two major considerations. The first is the consistent presence of a two-level court system requiring housing within each province or territory. The second is the diverse nature of the authorities responsible for court house construction in various parts of Canada at different times. Regardless of chronological and geographical differences, these two factors were overshadowing determinants of the general pattern of court house architecture in Canada.

The first, a two-level judicial organization, has promoted the occurrence of three basic forms of court house buildings. Each of these is distinct in the size of its host community, its general scale, the complexity (and sometimes origin) of its design, as well as the diversity, level and placement of the functions it accommodates. For convenience, these will be referred to as simple, compound and complex court houses.



3 Charlotte County Court House, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
See also Figure 2. Original plans for this, and most other court houses not designed by architects, have not survived, if they ever existed. The interior of this building has not been substantially altered. Note that activity in the floor plan centres around one large room. (New Brunswick. Department of Supply and Services)

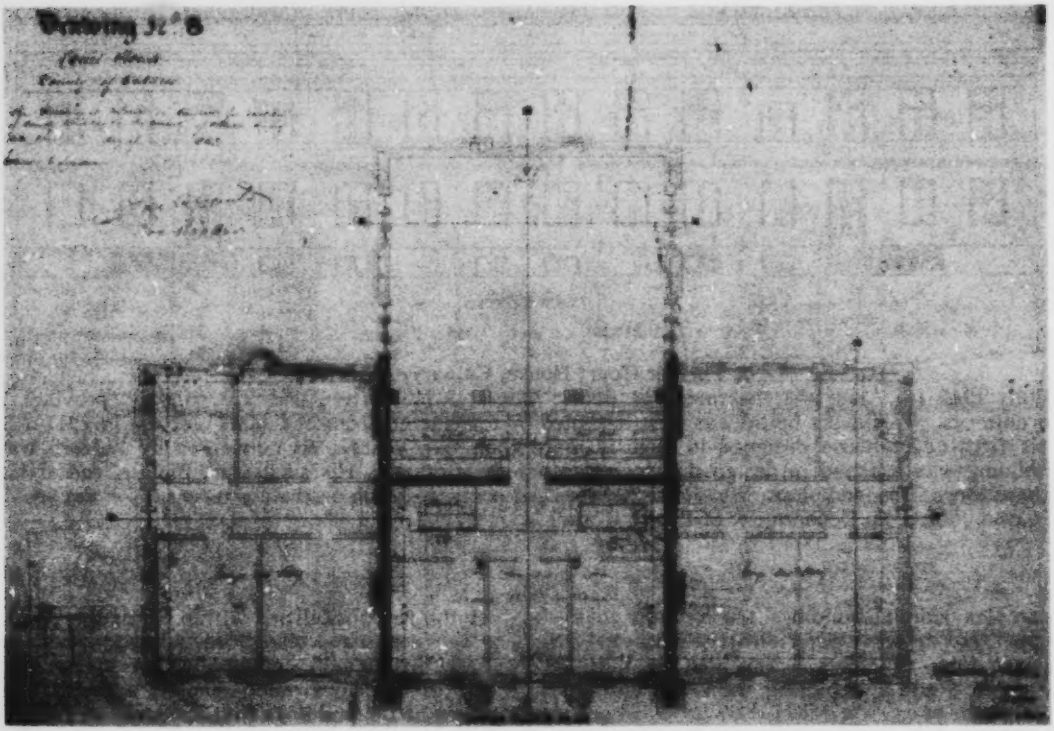
4 Ontario County Court House, Whitby, Ontario
Built 1853-54; Cumberland and Storm, architects. This compound court house, initially containing both court and jail facilities, was designed by a prominent architectural firm and built by local builder James Wallace. (Thomas Bouckley Collection, Oshawa, Ontario)

The simple court house most often serves the needs of an inferior circuit court and can be found in most regions of Canada with the exception of the Prairies. Buildings of this type are not usually occupied year-round as a court, but used for other functions such as entertainment and municipal meetings. Typically, these buildings are small, one-storey structures located in small centres. They are usually distinguished from vernacular domestic architecture and other buildings in their communities by applied architectural features such as porticoes, pediments and/or pilasters. Internally the arrangement is always simple. Although there might be cells in the basement or in the rear, and accommodation for an itinerant judge, caretaker or jailer, or even a jury room, the courtroom occupies most of the space in the building. Ancillary rooms lead directly into this large room and while there might be a front vestibule, there is rarely a corridor dividing the interior space. Buildings of this category often resemble other rural public buildings such as meeting halls, schools and churches. The utilitarian nature of such buildings as well as the early period in which they appeared in many areas meant that they were often not architect designed. Figures 2 and 3 showing the Charlotte County Court House in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, illustrate this form.

The second kind of court house is more often a judicial building of the inferior courts in a district or county town, which is also used by the assizes of the superior court in the area. Since they are found in more populated communities, court houses of this type constitute the majority of surviving examples across Canada. In buildings of this category the courtroom still occupies an important quantity and quality of interior space, but associated offices of both the administration and the judiciary such as judges' offices and chambers, sheriffs' offices, law libraries, and registry

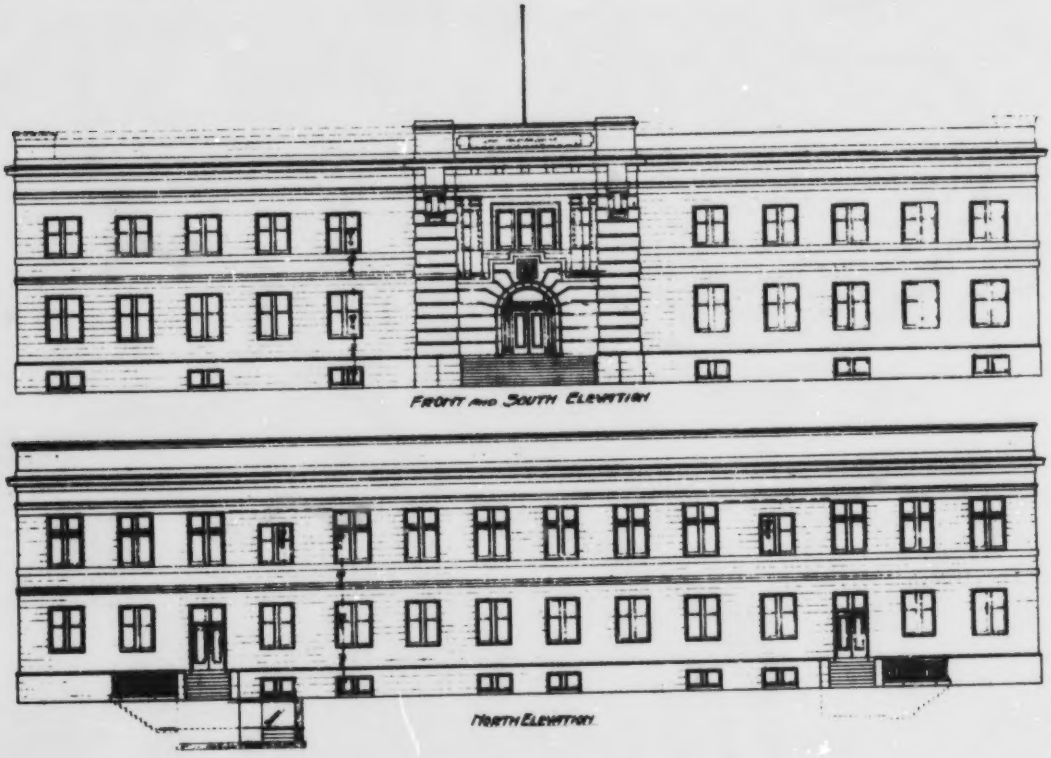
offices also occupy room in the building. These public offices attract pedestrian traffic; consequently, it is common for buildings of this type to have administrative offices such as those of the sheriff and/or registrar on the ground floor, while the courtroom and ancillary judicial rooms are located above. These buildings are therefore larger than those of the simple category. Their exteriors make more conscious use of stylistic (particularly classical) detail. Such buildings are generally architect designed, more distinguishable from other buildings in the community and identifiable as court houses. They can be referred to as compound court houses and are illustrated by Figures 4 and 5 depicting the Ontario County Court House in Whitby, Ontario.

The third type of court building usually houses regular sittings of a Supreme Court, the main provincial or territorial superior court. Examples of this type may be similar to compound court houses in the origin and sophisticated nature of their design; however, they are usually bigger - frequently extending to three storeys - and are most often located in large urban centres. These buildings can be termed complex court houses. Such structures are designed to house other levels of courts and so must have more than one courtroom. As with compound court houses, courtrooms in



5 Ontario County Court House, Whitby, Ontario

See also Figure 4. This original plan of the Ontario County Court House shows the prominent place occupied by the courtroom on the second floor, which it continued to occupy even though later a second floor was added to each of the original wings. (Archives of Ontario, Horwood Collection)



6 Former Court House, Calgary, Alberta
Built 1912-14; Alberta Department of Public Works, A.M. Jeffers and R.P. Blakey, provincial architects. This court house was first designed by Provincial Architect A.M. Jeffers in 1911-12, his fifth court house designed in slightly more than five years. As conceived by Jeffers the building was subdued in design due to budgetary restrictions. His successor, Blakey, redrafted these elevations (and plans, Fig. 7) further limiting ornamentation on the court house for the same reason. (Alberta. Department of Public Works)

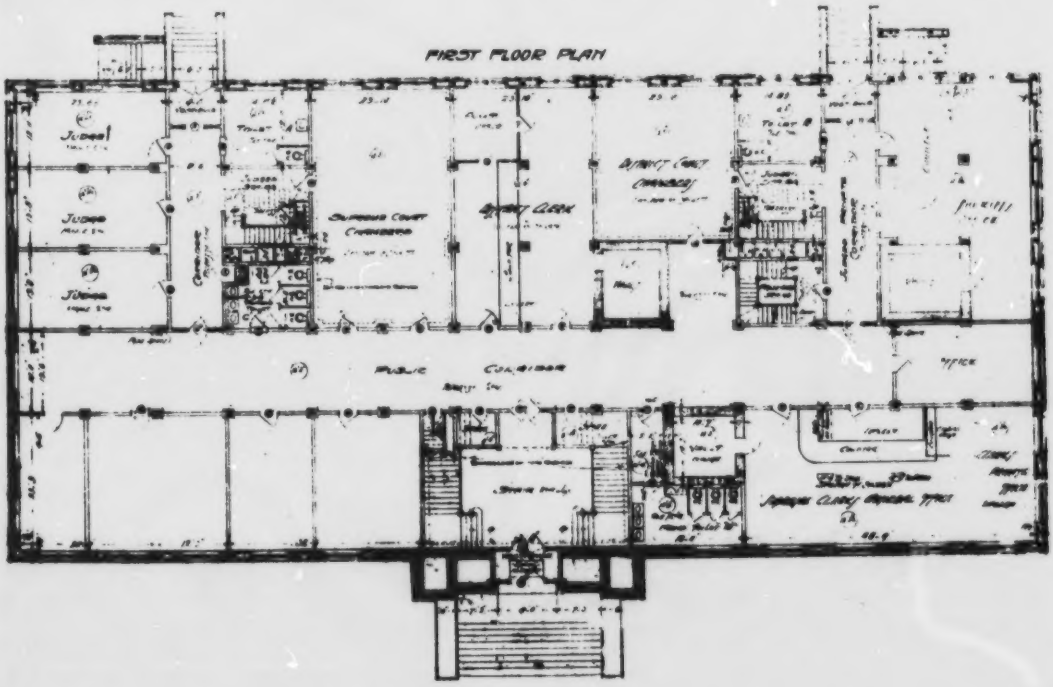
complex judicial buildings are located on the upper storey with government offices on the lower floor or floors. This can be seen in Figures 6 and 7 depicting the court house in Calgary.

Aside from these similarities in form based on the judicial level served, other general characteristics of court house architecture in Canada seem to have been influenced most by the agencies responsible for court house construction. As mentioned earlier, this phenomenon is organized on a provincial level, and yet the responsibilities within particular provinces or colonies do have certain characteristics in common which affect the type of decisions made, and as a result the nature of the buildings that appear.

Under the courts of quarter sessions in any of the British colonies or in a colonial or provincial government organized by county such as as those in southern Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, each county was responsible for its own court house construction. The overwhelming characteristic of

court houses built by county agencies is originality. They are diverse in exterior design, interior space allocation, siting and use of materials because they have been constructed to meet the needs of a specific situation as expressed by a group of local citizens. The architect or builder chosen to design and/or construct a court house under this system may have been hired without competition because either he or his work was known to the building committee. In many cases, competitions were held giving preference to local bidders. Indeed, many of these craftsmen constructed only one court house in their entire careers; thus the similarities that do exist between one building and another result from uncertain builders looking for inspiration in manuals as they did in Nova Scotia, or inexperienced building committees touring neighbouring judicial buildings for ideas as occurred in Ontario. Situations in which an architect designed several court houses seem to have originated under these circumstances too, although even in these cases no one court house seems to be an exact duplication of another.

Buildings constructed under the county system can also appear curiously whimsical in the functions they combine. While some of them contain both jail and registry office under one roof with court facilities, most join court quarters with one of these functions. Of these, some house the third function in a separate building nearby, while others do not. In rare cases the association between local government and the courts of quarter sessions



7 Former Court House, Calgary, Alberta

See also Figure 6. One of the more restrained complex court houses in Canada, this building housed both Supreme and district courts. These plans are for the first (ground) floor. Further court chambers were located on the second storey. (Alberta. Department of Public Works)

8 Cumberland County Court House, Amherst, Nova Scotia
Built 1888-89; designed possibly by building committee. Built under county authority, this court house originally housed the registry of deeds and municipal offices as well as court facilities. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building; The Pridham's Studio Ltd., Amherst, Nova Scotia)

has been retained, and court houses have been built in combination with what are usually regarded as municipal functions (Fig. 8). The court house in Fredericton, New Brunswick, for example, contained a market on the first floor and court accommodation on the second. Victoria Hall in Cobourg, Ontario, combined the town hall with a courtroom, theatre and a host of private functions. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, William Thomas designed a building to accommodate court house, town hall and market, each with a separate entrance connoting its function. There seem to be no rules governing the type of court houses built by county agencies except the cardinal one - that the counties responsible be satisfied with the results.

Provincial and colonial situations in which a central authority was responsible for the construction of court houses had two variations. In the first, the central authority set design specifications for court houses to be built, let contracts to do both the designing and the construction for the project, and

reserved the right of approval at project completion. This control was usually exercised by a provincial architect, a Board of Works or a Department of Public Works coordinator appointed for the purpose who operated with little staff support (Fig. 9). The work itself was performed by the private architects and builders who obtained the contracts. Such projects were often completed over-budget and executed to a more grandiose scale than required. Indeed, under the auspices of "control through approval" arrangement, patronage was an active theme in the awarding of design, construction and material supply contracts. A clear instance of patronage has been found in early Saskatchewan, although a similar system of control over court house design through approval also operated in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Quebec and British Columbia at various times during their histories.

In some ways this system has resulted in the construction of court houses resembling county court houses in the diversity of designs they adopted to accommodate both particular situations and the ideas of independent architects. On the other hand, court houses built under this system were usually subject to a more uniform set of building specifications and requirements. While in most cases this amounted to no more than stipulations for the fire-proof nature of certain materials or the minimum size of halls, it did result in the strict specifications of a design to be followed in the rare case of the Prince Edward Island circuit courts. Generally, judicial buildings constructed under this system also housed a more consistent set of functions which were provincial responsibilities such as jails, police quarters, and provincial and/or registry offices. Occasionally, however, locally elected bodies did engage in a financial agreement with the provincial government to ensure selection of their town as a court centre. In

9 Court House, Dauphin, Manitoba

Built 1916-17; J.H. Bossons, architect. The design for this court house was contracted to a private architect by the superintendent of public buildings of the Manitoba government when Manitoba was seeking new variety in its judicial buildings. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

10 Montmagny District Court House, Montmagny, Quebec
Built 1859-62; Department of Public Works, Province of the United Canadas, F.P. Rubidge, chief architect. This is one of fourteen standard plan court houses built in Quebec during a major phase of court house construction. The design was prepared by the chief architect's office, and construction was let by contract to local firms. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

such situations, the court house might also include accommodation for municipal functions such as a town hall or municipal court which was not within the strict purview of the province. Several examples of this can be found in early Manitoba.

The second variation on the theme of centralized authority over court house construction exists in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland at particular times in the period covered by this study. It occurs when court houses are constructed under a central authority employing a chief architect or engineer with a designing staff. This group not only sets the specifications for the buildings to be constructed in its area but designs them as well. Since this work is done within a single office environment by a fairly consistent group of government architects under the same direction, it is frequently executed according to a stated policy. For example, the cost of court houses designed under this system was often strictly regulated, limiting their scale and frills to the requirements of the situation. Designs tended to be uniform: British Columbia, for example, adopted the half-timber motif for many of its small government buildings during the 1920s. Materials were often purchased from a previously stipulated local, provincial or national market. This may have occurred for reasons of economy as practised in Alberta, boosterism as seen in the construction of the Law Courts Building in Manitoba, or grass-roots patronage as established in the case of the Dawson court house. Construction of the buildings was usually let to local builders on contract, but occasionally the Department of Public Works concerned constructed the building itself. The functions accommodated by such court houses varied from single to multiple according to the provincial government's accommodation needs in the area, for

they inevitably housed only provincial government agencies.

The single most important product of centralized court house responsibility employing in-house architects is the standard design. This phenomenon first made its appearance in the United Canadas during the 1850s when a series of court houses was required in the area now the Province of Quebec. Under the guidance of F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, the Department of Public Works of the Canadas adopted a court house design from which fourteen buildings were constructed, identical in all but the most superficial aspects (Fig. 10). Indeed, the standard design proved so sensible a policy that it was followed by other areas undertaking similarly large-scale projects, most notably Ontario (in the north) and Saskatchewan. Newfoundland also used the same basic design and specifications for several buildings, but adapted them to fit local needs. In Saskatchewan the concept was pushed a little further as the Department of Public Works in that province developed several standard designs, each suitable for use in a community of different size, future expectation and requirement for the accommodation of provincial agencies.

The authority responsible for court house construction is, then, one of the general factors responsible for the nature of Canadian court houses. This was not a factor operating in isolation, but rather through the medium of men who were themselves subject to the prevailing conditions and ideas of their times. As a result, there were other, less direct historical trends that influenced the type of court house buildings that appeared in Canada.

Among these trends were the contemporary ideas about court house construction that came to Canada through other countries. These ideas encompass exterior style, interior arrangement, use of materials and building siting. They appear to have originated in several countries including Britain, France and the United States, and neither their origin nor their vogue on an international level is difficult to demonstrate. What has proven awkward to identify in Canada is the means by which they entered the country; such vague explanations as "through the experience of immigrants and travellers," and "in the pages of international magazines" are unsatisfying unless they can be linked to specific people, articles and buildings. Indeed, although some court houses clearly follow the modes set by international arbiters, many more do not. Apparently other, more immediate factors were often a determining influence. In any case, even when international fashions in court house design did influence decisions on a particular building, these must be regarded in relation to local conditions; consequently, such incidents have been discussed in their more immediate regional contexts.

Other important general trends that affected early court house accommodation can be treated under a socio-economic heading. These include the population make-up and economic expectations of an area which have a direct influence on the size and importance of any court house project it might undertake, as well as the materials and funds accessible for building construction. In Canada, national policies and depressions might be country-wide in their application, but their influence and impact on court house construction was primarily regional. The importance of socio-economic factors in this study depends on the particular period in which court house facilities were constructed or required alteration, which in turn depends on the time at which areas were opened up for development and acquired a need for sophisticated government accommodation. As a result, to be meaningful these topics must be discussed within a regional context.

In summary, court houses are generally regarded as important buildings in the communities in which they are located. Not only are they centrally located in their host city or town, they occur rarely in comparison with many other forms of public building such as fire halls, schools and town halls. They are also closely tied to the Canadian judicial system - a major activity in the government of the nation - and this tie is reflected in their appearance. In this regard, the nature of court houses is sufficiently affected by the existence of one common judicial system and the similarity of its operations in various parts of the country that some aspects of the building type can be usefully viewed from a national perspective. Beyond this point, the extension of judicial development and its adjunct, the construction of court houses, occurred in different areas of Canada at such a variety of time periods that they were

prudently designated provincial responsibilities, and further discussion of the topic is more profitable from a regional perspective.

(Note: Unfortunately, because of a lack of general bibliographical works on this topic, all information contained in this essay has been derived either from well-accepted interpretations of Canadian or British imperial history, or directly from the results of the court house project. This essay is simply an overview of the information contained in the regional essays that follow, and as these are organized geographically east to west cross-referencing is unnecessary. The regional essays themselves are extensively developed and referenced; consequently, to avoid duplication, citations have not been given.)

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF NEWFOUNDLAND

R.R. Rostecki

Justice was not introduced easily to Newfoundland. Not laws nor a judicial system nor court accommodation readily followed one from the other, and each of these steps was itself undertaken with difficulty. Although Europeans first settled on Newfoundland in the eleventh century, Sir Humphrey Gilbert formulated its first laws when he was granted the island by Queen Elizabeth in 1583. He left no representatives to enforce his authority, however, and the laws had little effect.[1] Several years later, the London and Bristol Company of traders established a colony at Cupids. There, John Guy drew up a set of laws for the regulation of the fishery patterned after English statutes. These rules came into effect on 30 August 1611, but they were largely ignored by renegade fishermen, causing Sir Richard Whitbourne to call an inquiry into the fisheries in 1615. This court of vice-admiralty, held on board Whitburne's ship at Trinity Harbour, marked the first attempt to convoke a formal court of justice in Newfoundland. Unfortunately, the men it tried later sacked and burned Cupids.[2]

By 1633 the situation had again become so difficult that King Charles I issued a commission "for the well-governing of his subjects inhabiting Newfoundland, or trafficking in bays, creeks or fresh rivers there,"[3] thereby delegating control of the colony to the merchants and traders of Newfoundland.[4] By the 1660s there were still no court houses, jails or regular administration of justice in the colony, and Sir David Kirke administered "quarterdeck law" from the parlour of his old house at Ferryland. The Newfoundland Charter of 1675 ended this situation, as all offenders were compelled to be brought to England for trial.[5] This system not only proved expensive, it also left an immediate void in legal authority on the island.

In the absence of any clearly defined legal authority, the migratory fishery developed its own set of laws which were contrary to any permanent land-based system. The British government provided tacit support for this arrangement by ignoring the demands of a growing number of inhabitants in deference to the requirements of the commercially important fishery. This position was confirmed during the years that followed. "By 1700 it had been decided that she [Newfoundland] ... would have neither a governor nor resident law courts. She would have no house of assembly to pass her laws; neither would she have a police force to enforce them";[6] the laws governing Newfoundland were intended to discourage settlement and encourage its maintenance as a revenue colony. In fairness it must be said that British-French conflict over the fishery rendered the issue of control over the island itself not only uncertain, but also secondary; nevertheless, Britain's position surrendered all judicial authority to the fishing admiral's system.

Even in comparison with publicly sponsored early courts in other parts of Canada, this system was very informal. Its justices were often "totally ignorant men with no qualifications except the command of a ship."[7] At one time, in fact, "out of the whole body of these marine justiciaries, only four could be found able to sign their names."[8] Judicial process was frequently used as a weapon against the ruling admiral's enemies. Courts were convened either on board ship or on land at the major fishing centres of Bonavista, Trinity, Old and New Perlican, Carbonear, St. John's, Bay of Bulls and Ferryland.[9] When they met on land, these courts did not occupy permanent quarters. As the occasion required they convened in the open or in fishermen's tilts, "pioneer dwellings or seasonal residences for people who were fishing or logging away from their permanent houses."[10] These tilts resembled shanties or lean-tos, yet they were the only type of building permitted on the island.[11]

Despite discouragement of settlement, the small core of permanent inhabitants grew steadily. In 1711 this group expressed its desire for some form of local government by convening the first voluntary assembly. These assemblies met annually and were a weak version of the New England town meetings,[12]

which were agencies of both municipal and publicly sponsored judicial authority in their localities. In New England the activities of town meetings were monitored by visiting justices of the peace responsible to their respective colonial governors. Since the population of Newfoundland was totally unrecognized during this period, there were no justices of the peace to perform this function, nor indeed was there a colonial governor. The assemblies operated in a vacuum, with less recognition from London than the quixotic admiralty courts.

When the British government obtained definite authority over Newfoundland by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, no immediate attempt was made to change its policy. As a result of a lack of systematized government, 1713-29 were chaotic years for the island's internal affairs.[13] Liberated from its struggle for control, the British government attempted to institute a system preserving the rights of the commercial settlers alongside those of the fishing population. In 1729 the king appointed a naval convoy commander and two justices to hear appeals.[14] Judicial districts were named in Bonavista, Trinity, Carbonear, St. John's, Ferryland and Placentia. Unfortunately, the king's naval governor's system derived its authority from the king instead of Parliament;[15] without parliamentary sanction the governor maintained an at best questionable status and was forced to rely upon his personal authority to arbitrate problems.

Despite its tenuous nature, facilities were constructed to accommodate the naval governor's system: a wooden prison and court house were built at St. John's in 1730. Little is known about this building, but the jail must have been small as all criminal cases were still tried in England.[16] During 1730 a prison was also proposed for Ferryland, initiating a bureaucracy: a naval officer was appointed in 1739 with the sole duty of suppressing smuggling; five years later a court of vice-admiralty was born; 1750 witnessed a court of oyer and terminer at St. John's, with power to try all crimes except treason; and in 1763 a customs house was established at St. John's.[17] By 1775 Newfoundland had a developing de facto judicial and administrative system.

While this sytem developed, its powers were undefined, arbitrary and erratically enforced. Understandably, abuses did occur and by the 1780s complaints were plentiful.[18] Generally, these originated from the growing local population who were primarily merchants, for there had still been no attempt to establish a court of civil jurisdiction,[19] and the type of justice being administered did not entirely satisfy their needs. At this point is it noteworthy that although three court houses had been erected in Newfoundland, at St. John's (1730), Placentia (1774) and Burin (pre-1775), the colony still did not possess a complete judicial system.

In the summer of 1789, a court of common pleas was established, though it met with the continued opposition of the fishermen. During 1791, the British Parliament passed "An Act for establishing a Court of Civil Jurisdiction in the Island of Newfoundland, for a limited time."[20] This was a court of record and comprised a chief justice and two assessors. It remained in effect until the following year, when the Judicature Act was passed by Parliament,[21] creating a modern judiciary with a Supreme Court, as well as surrogate versions in various centres. These continued with annual mandates until 1809, when permanent courts of judicature were formed.[22]

Throughout this period of renewable courts, the British government was clearly unwilling to alienate the commercially important fishing community by committing itself to a policy of permanent settlement. As late as 1806, "...neither house, nor chimney, nor barn, was allowed to be erected, nor any business other than fishing business permitted without the sanction of the Governor..."[23] A judicial system was created under strong public pressure, but the means to revoke it were kept at hand. Similarly, the British government refused to invest in the construction of court houses, but it did not prohibit their construction. As a result, the two court houses known to have been built during this period, a wooden building at Harbour Grace (1807) and another at Trinity (1811),[24] were financed by a subscription from local merchants and a voluntary levy upon local ships and goods. Burin merchants began to collect similar funding for a court house in 1817, though it is not known whether the building was ever erected.[25] With de facto responsibility for the initiation and financing of court houses resting by default with local

merchants, there was clearly no thought given to where judicial facilities ought to be located, for the system they served was itself considered temporary.

This stance changed in 1825 when An Act for the Better Administration of Justice in Newfoundland became law.[26] The act divided the island into three judicial districts and created a Supreme Court with a chief judge and two assistant judges,[27] establishing a permanent judicial system for Newfoundland. This British change of heart was undoubtedly brought about by a decline in the importance of the fishery for the ban on island settlement was formally lifted in 1829, and after that the population increased rapidly.

Two court houses were constructed under the governor's authority in this new era, one at St. John's in 1830 and another at Harbour Grace in 1830-31. Plans for both buildings received approval and support in London, although in the case of the St. John's Court House, this approval was tempered by censure of the exorbitant sum that the current governor, Cochrane, had already extended to construct a new Government House on Military Road, St. John's.[28] In 1826 Cochrane began complaining that the 1730 court house stood

> on a confined site that was not capable of the improvements necessary to make the gaol efficient. Cochrane felt that the cells were little better than cellars, neither

1 Court House, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland

Built 1830-31; Patrick Kough, architect. Newfoundland's oldest surviving court house was one of the first court houses approved by the British government for construction in Newfoundland. It replaced an earlier court house built in 1807 without formal government approval and paid for by the merchants of Conception Bay by a voluntary subscription of twenty shillings for every thousand quintals of fish caught and shipped from the harbour. (Magistrate T. Corbett, Placentia, Newfoundland)

2 Court House, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland
See also Figure 1. Stone court houses are rare in Newfoundland, the only two being the St. John's Court House (1901-4) and this one. Here, the random blocks of stone in the court house walls are well contrasted by fanlights in both window and door openings. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

> wholesome nor secure. As many as ten men would be confined together in a single cell at an expense to themselves of nine pence per day each.[29]

As a result, the Office of Works at London ordered the well-known English architect Sir Robert Smirke to prepare plans for a new jail in Newfoundland late in 1829.[30] Smirke's plans were evidently more extensive than the Lord Commissioners of Works thought necessary; however, they eventually sanctioned a less expensive court house and jail for St. John's which may have been built according to a modified version of Smirke's plans. The building constructed was two storeys, wooden and located on a site adjacent to that of the 1730 court house.[31]

Construction of a court house and jail at Harbour Grace, on the other hand, encountered no such impediments. When Judge R.A. Tucker wrote to Governor Cochrane on 22 June 1829 stating the existing Harbour Grace Court House was in a "decayed and dilapidated state - almost entirely unfit for any purpose whatsoever,"[32] Cochrane had two sets of plans prepared for "a small but suitable building for the purpose required." One provided for the erection of the whole building in stone, the other employed the same design with the upper part of the structure in wood.[33] These he sent to London and, as evidence of a firm intention to provide judicial districts with proper facilities, construction of the more expensive stone building was approved. The result was the present Harbour Grace Court House (Figs 1, 2), the oldest surviving court house in Newfoundland. It appears to have been both designed and built by Patrick Kough (also Keough), a native Newfoundlander.[34]

In 1832 Newfoundland was granted representative government and the assembly of the island became responsible for the erection and maintenance of its own public works. Initially, members of the legislature themselves controlled these activities, considering presentments for court house construction and repair made by the grand jury at the

instigation of local citizens. The assembly appears to have emphasized construction of new facilities at the expense of vital repairs to existing buildings, resulting in damage to the structures concerned.[35] At least eight new court houses were built during this period, located at Brigus (ca. 1836-83), Ferryland (1836-?), Carbonear (1837-73), Harbour Breton, Old Perlican, Twillingate (1837-83), Bonavista (1843-99) and St. John's (1847-92).

The origins of designs for these buildings is unclear. Plans for some of the earlier ones may have come from the communities themselves, for the *Journals* of the assembly record that the citizens of Port de Grave commissioned a plan for a court house in their community in 1836 that was unfortunately never built.[36] Some designs, particularly those for later court houses, may have been prepared by St. John's master builder, Patrick Kough. Kough not only successfully completed the Harbour Grace Court House in 1830-31, but he also seems to have reported annually to the authority responsible for public works design (in this case, the assembly) from 1840 until his death in 1863.

3 Court House and Market, St. John's, Newfoundland
Built 1846; Patrick Kough, probable architect. The market facade of this combined function building is shown here. The court house and jail occupied the third storey of the building and was entered from the street shown in the background. Inclusion of court facilities in the market building was an afterthought costing an additional £1096. (Newfoundland Archives)

4 The Great Fire of St. John's, Newfoundland, July 1892
This artists's conception depicts the second major fire in half a century; the first was in June 1846. St. John's lost its court houses in both of these fires and as a result the present court structure was built of stone at considerable additional cost. (*The Graphic*, Vol. 46, No. 1183, 30 July 1892, p. 129)

Whether Kough ever acted in an official capacity as architect for the Newfoundland government is uncertain. When the court house built by Cochrane in St. John's in 1830 burned down in 1847, Kough was certainly employed to superintend the construction of the new one, a hasty conversion of the upper level of the three-storey St. John's market then nearing completion (Fig. 3). Kough's involvement may have been due to his role as architect of the building, for although he was a builder by trade the firm of Parker and Read (and not he) built it.[37] He may, on the other hand, have been acting on behalf of the assembly. This is the first court house in Newfoundland known not to include a jail. While a small holding lock-up did exist in the building, prisoners served terms first at Signal Hill, and after 1859 at H. M. Penitentiary, Forest Road. Unfortunately, the court facilities provided by the building were considered inadequate, even before it, too, burned down in the Great Fire of July 1892 (Fig. 4).

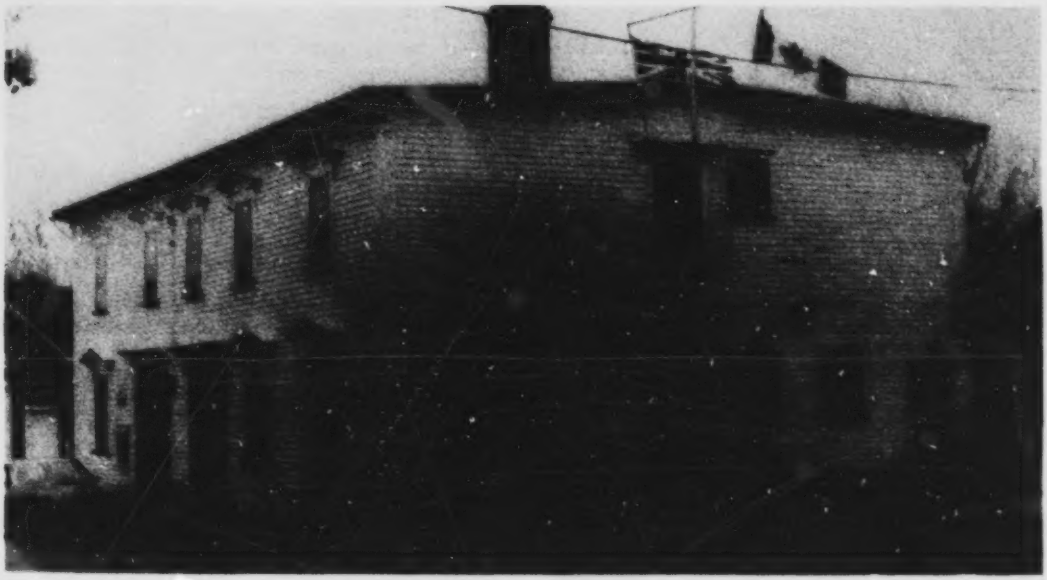
About the time of the introduction of responsible government (1855-56), the assembly created a Board of Works to manage all public projects. At first the board consisted of a committee of members of the legislature which met regularly to discuss correspondence and other matters concerned with the construction and maintenance of public works. This board was primarily concerned with the maintenance of existing works, although it was responsible for constructing

one court house at Greenspond (ca. 1855). Little is known about the source of the design of this court house, and aside from the fact that it was a large structure located in the centre of the town,[38] its appearance is uncertain.

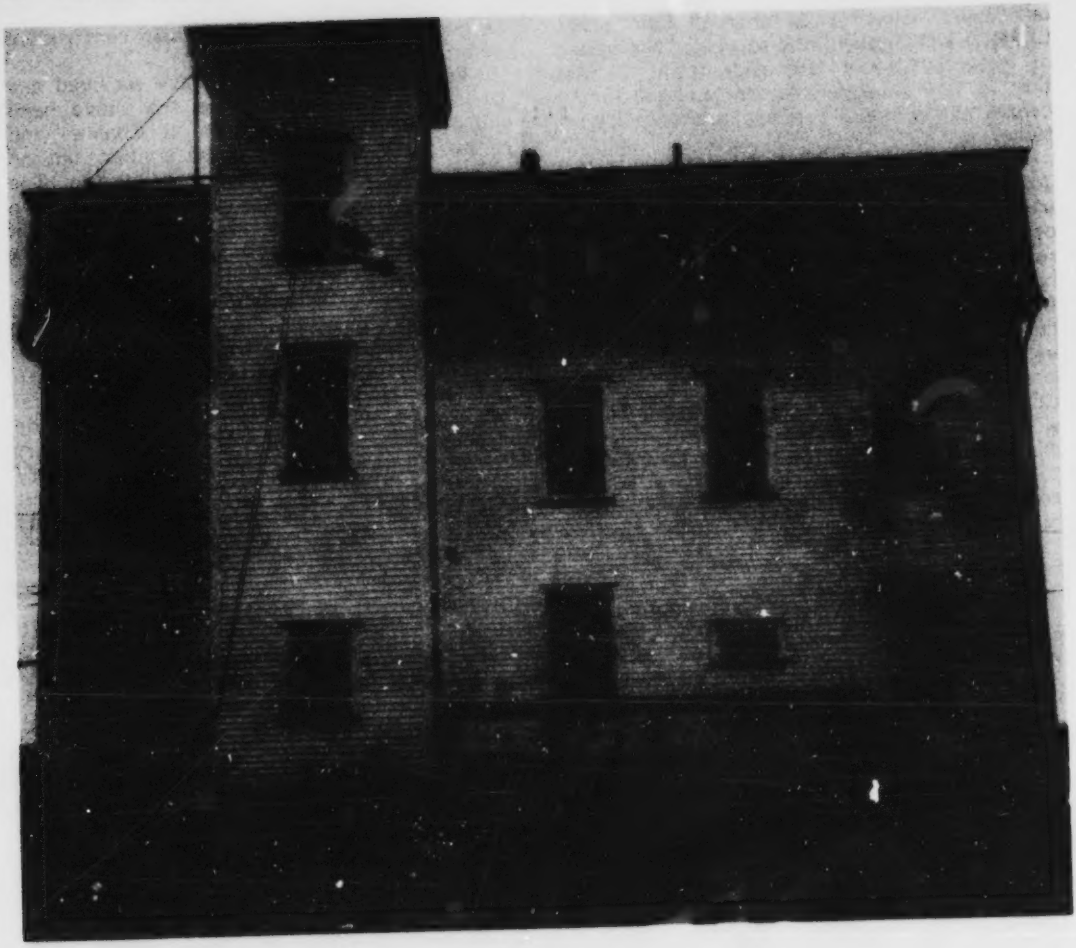
In 1865-66 the Board of Works appointed John T. Nevill "Inspector of Public Buildings," and after that the erection and maintenance of public buildings and lighthouses became the responsibility of his office. Nevill appears to have had some architectural background, for there is no reason to believe that he did not design the bulk of Newfoundland's public buildings constructed between 1865 and 1895. Lock-ups with courtrooms in Fogo (1866), Channel (1872) and Grand Falls (1873-74) as well as the court house in Carbonear (1873, demolished 1962) and the Harbour Grace Customs House (1879)[39] are clearly his work, and around 1885 Nevill began to call himself "architect" in his reports.[40] Under Nevill's authority a court house was also constructed at Brigus (1883-84).

Few of these buildings have survived and little is known about those that have been demolished. The buildings at Channel and Grand Falls were said to be similar, but no description of their designs exists.[41] The Carbonear Court House is known to have sported a two-sided mansard roof,[42] and the Fogo lock-up contained a total of twelve hundred square feet.[43] Since these two communities each had populations of approximately five thousand,[44] perhaps their buildings, too, were similar.

Two Nevill buildings have survived, though unfortunately they do not establish a theme in Nevill's court house design. The first, the Harbour Grace Customs House, is not a court house at all, and as a public building is very small, resembling a brick house in its layout and design. The second, the Brigus Court House (Fig. 5), is a wooden building which



5 Court House, Brigus, Newfoundland
Built 1883-84; John T. Nevill, inspector of public buildings, architect. The only surviving court house of the five designed by Nevill, this building has been altered so much that its original interior configuration is unclear. It replaced an earlier court house that served Brigus from 1836 to 1883. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)



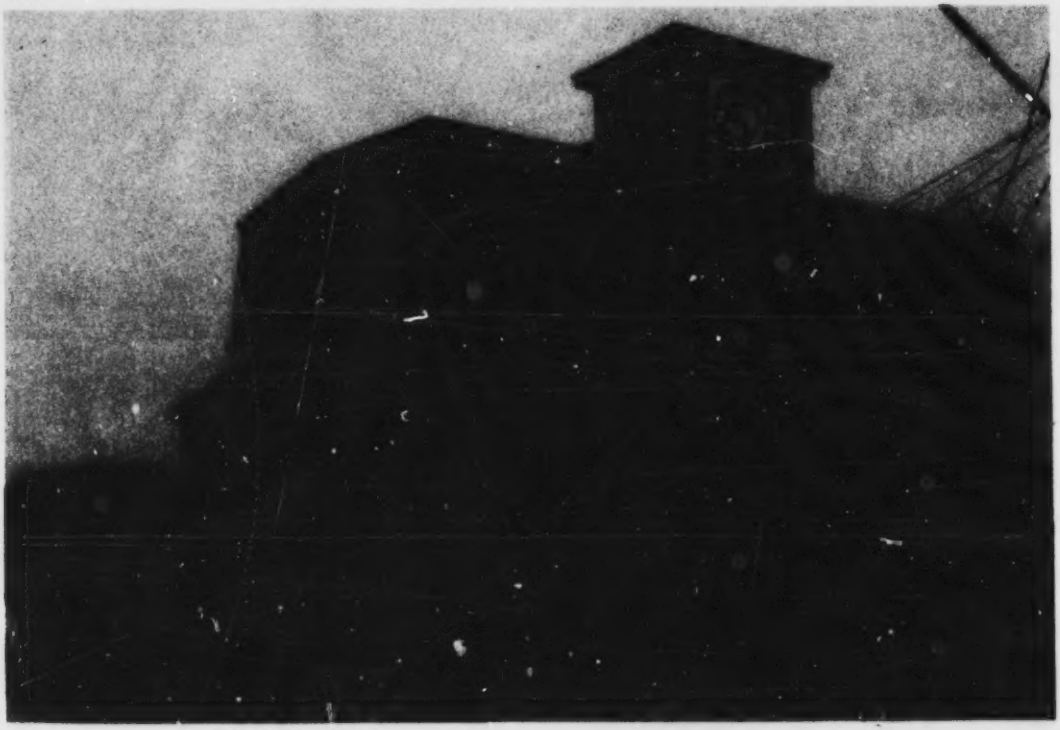
6 Court House, Bonavista, Newfoundland
Built 1897-99; William Henry Churchill, superintendent of buildings, architect. This is the first of a series of similar court houses designed by Churchill. Cells were situated in the basement of the building, and the jailer's residence occupied three storeys to the right of the tower. Magistrate's rooms were located to the left on the first floor, with a two-storey courtroom above. The mansard-roofed tower was removed in 1953. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

accommodated a court house, jail and probably the jailer's residence as well. It is two storeys and appears to be out of proportion. Peaked pediments adorn the numerous windows on the front of the building, and the windows themselves are heavy in scale. These details suggest the court house was originally designed with a third storey in the form of the

mansard roof so prevalent in eastern Newfoundland at the time; if so, Nevill must have removed the third storey when he altered the plans to accommodate the legislature's request for a cheaper building.[45] Alternatively, this lack of proportion may suggest that Nevill was not a particularly adept architect. It is difficult to draw any conclusions on the basis of the remaining evidence.

Nevill retired in 1895 and was replaced by William Henry Churchill, an architect, whose involvement in the design process is uncertain. Clearly, designs for large projects, such as the St. John's Court House (1901-4), the Grand Falls Public Building (1911, demolished ca. 1970) and the Corner Brook Public Building (1925, demolished ca. 1966), were performed on contract by various private architects. This indicates the talents of Churchill and his staff were limited to the erection of simple frame buildings.

Both examples and evidence about these simple frame buildings are plentiful. The group encompasses court houses at Bonavista (1897-99), Bell Island (1900, demolished ca. 1970), Greenspond (1902), Placentia (1902), Trinity (1903, Fig. 10), St. George's (1903) and



7 General Building, Placentia, Newfoundland
Built 1902; William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings, architect. Placentia's 125-year-old court house was replaced by this building in 1902 - a variation on the court house design used in other centres. This was considered to be a general building because it accommodated postal telegraph and customs offices as well as court and jail facilities. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

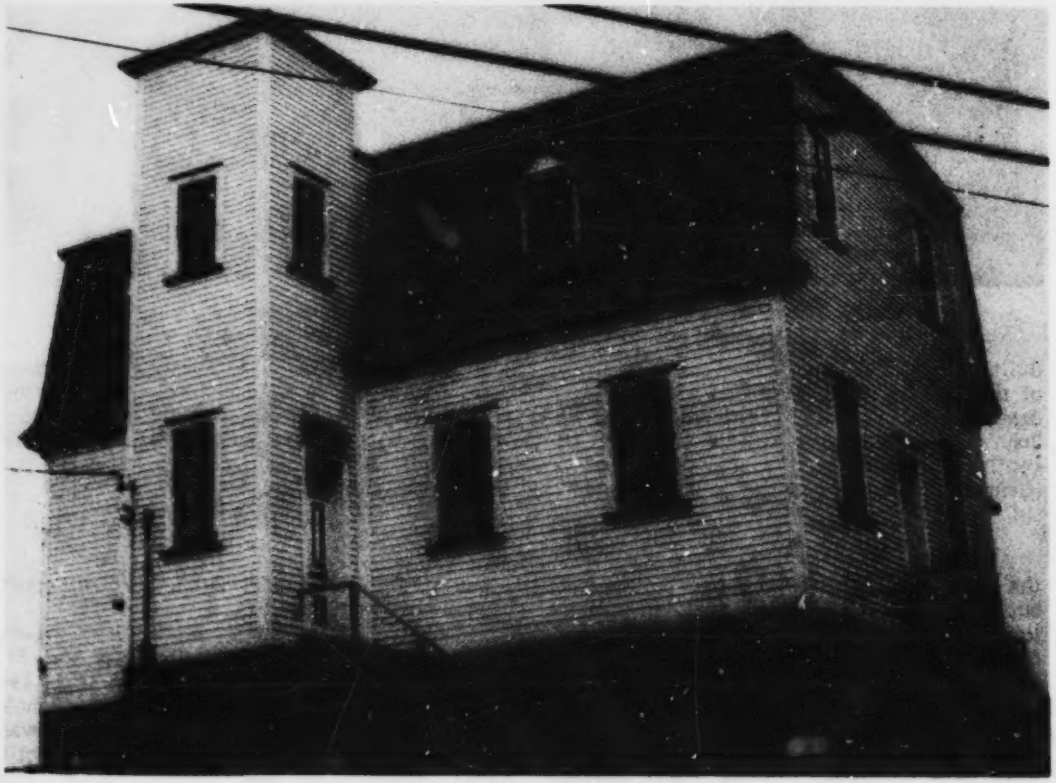
8 General Building, Trinity, Newfoundland
Built 1903; William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings, architect. The general building constructed at Placentia in 1902 was duplicated in this building the following year. The building's clock has been replaced by a coloured rose window. (Newfoundland Archives, Holloway Collection)

Bay Roberts (1903–4, demolished 1960s). All of these buildings follow a similar design concept. Each has a two-sided mansard roof with dormers and is fronted by a square, hooded tower. All originally were rectangular and built of wood by local builders. Aside from these similarities, particular buildings were adapted to suit their locations. Bonavista (Fig. 6), the first to be constructed, was three storeys with a basement. Placentia (Fig. 7) and Trinity (Fig. 8) contained three storeys but no basements; however, both buildings had clocks in their towers which were not found in other court houses. St. George's and Greenspond (Fig. 9) had only two storeys. Both of them were smaller in scale than the Bonavista building, although St. George's Court House (62 by 32 ft) was larger than the one in Greenspond (42 by 20 ft). Unfortunately, little information has been collected concerning demolished examples.

All existing standard design court houses seem to have accommodated the same functions: jailer's residence, jail, postal telegraph office, customs office and court room. Magistrate's quarters were also provided although sometimes in a separate building. In the two-storey buildings (St. George's and Greenspond),

a large one-storey courtroom occupied the complete upper floor, while the lower floor housed cells, a day room, postal telegraph and customs offices, and bedrooms and a parlour for the jailer. Magistrate's quarters were located in a neighbouring structure. The larger three-storey court house at Bonavista, Placentia and Trinity were subdivided functionally as well as visually by the towers in their facades. In each case, the jailer's residence occupied all three storeys to the right of the tower. On the left side, a courtroom stretched to occupy both second and third storeys. Bonavista housed cells in the basement, with magistrate's, postal telegraph and customs offices on the first floor. All of these functions were located on the ground floor in Placentia and Trinity. The standard design court houses seem to have accommodated all provincial functions needed in their areas, and therefore were sometimes known as general buildings.

A later modification of this common design was the new Burin Court House, erected about 1905 (Fig. 10). Here, the mansard-roof was shed in favour of a hip-roof; the tower disappeared, only to emerge less prominently as a two-storey entrance vestibule. In addition,

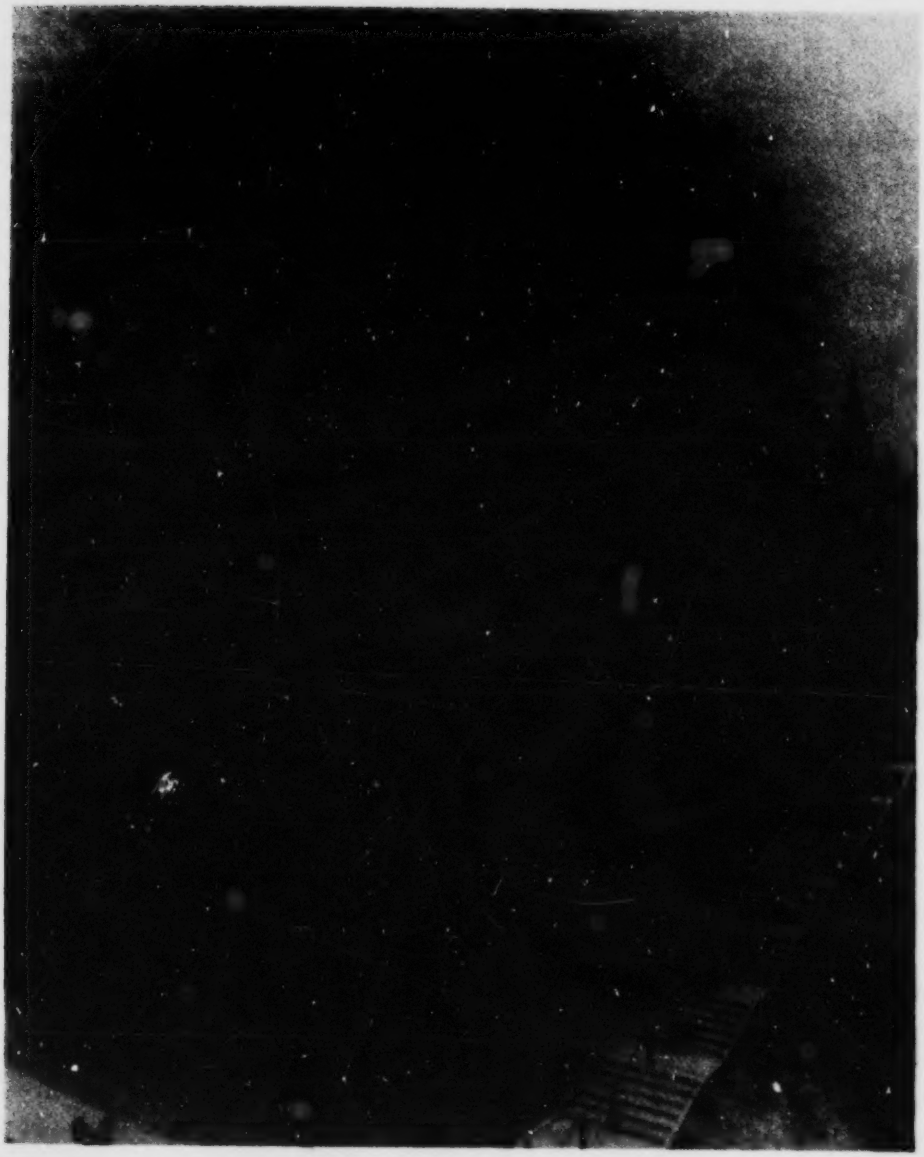


9 Court House, Greenspond, Newfoundland
Built 1900-1901; William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings, architect. The smallest of Newfoundland's standard design court houses, the Greenspond Court House has also lost its original tower roof. Unlike the other buildings, its tower is off-centre. The design is the same as St. George's, with fewer windows. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

10 Court House, Burin, Newfoundland
Built ca. 1905; William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings, architect. Comparison of this building with other Newfoundland court houses suggests it is a modernized version of the design used in many other centres. It replaced an 1817 building so dilapidated that the 1901 St. John's *Evening Telegram* declared "... no crime short of murder is so great that would justify confinement of a healthy man there for a month. Devils Island would be a paradise to it." (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

the Burin building was no longer rectangular but foursquare fifty by fifty feet. In contrast to earlier buildings, the Burin Court House contained no residential function, but it was linked to its forebearers by the second-floor location of its courtroom and the cells in the basement. Unfortunately, Burin was the last of the outpost court houses built, and it is difficult to determine whether it was intended to be the first of a new general design. After it was constructed in 1905, rail transportation began to have an impact upon the hitherto isolated life of the outposts, as the Reid-Newfoundland Railway interests pushed their lines into various parts of the colony. With distances lessened a rationalization of court facilities began to occur.

The most grandiose court house constructed during this period was the St. John's Court House, built in 1901-4 (Figs 11-15). Designed by a private St. John's architect, William H. Greene, the building was Romanesque, resembling the fortress motif then popular in the United States and Canada.[46] It displayed only its upper three storeys at the Duckworth Street side, for like many other St. John's buildings, the court house had to be built into the front of a steep hill (Figs 11 and 12). From Water Street, six full storeys face directly down Baird's Cove



11 Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland

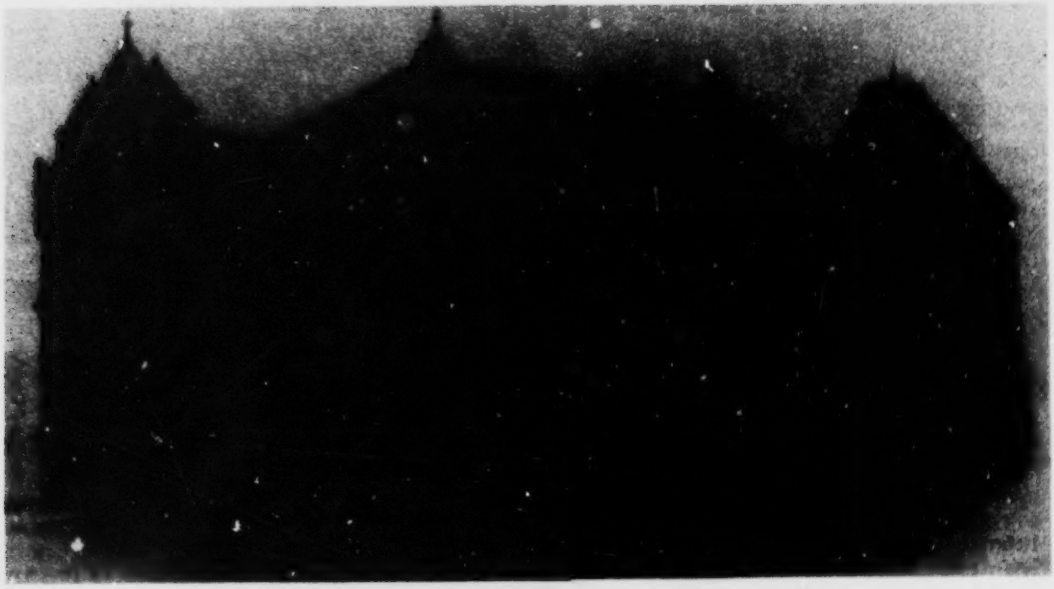
Built 1901-4; William H. Greene, architect. This photograph of the Water Street facade illustrates the skillful way in which its Romanesque Revival motif was adapted to accommodate the building's site on Church Hill. (D.W. Prowse, *The Newfoundland Guide Book*, 1911 [London: Whitehead, Morris and Coy, 1911], p. 19)

Avenue and into the harbour. Although the sheer size of the structure ensures its prominence from this angle, the St. John's Court House is truly majestic.

Functionally, it is a complex building. Originally it accommodated a Supreme Court Room, police court, law library, various court chambers, the colonial secretary's office and judges' apartments. For a time the legislature also met there. The interior of the building is imposing, richly detailed in dark oak with decorative lighting.

The building's exterior, too, was striking. Arches, towers and dormers enhance the design, while the ashlar face with its red granite trim and blue whetstone blocks give the facade a distinctive appearance. This stone is at the heart of the controversy surrounding the building's construction. The contract to build the court house was awarded to S.M. Brookfield, a Nova Scotian, who had probably made his bid expecting to import brick and stone from Nova Scotia. A local hue and cry over the matter resulted in the award of most material contracts to Newfoundland firms.[47] Undoubtedly this delayed completion of the court house, for it took three years to build. Many years later, in 1933, its replacement value was assessed at several times more than that of all other court houses on the island together,[48] for the St. John's Court House was the only stone judicial building ever constructed by the Newfoundland government.

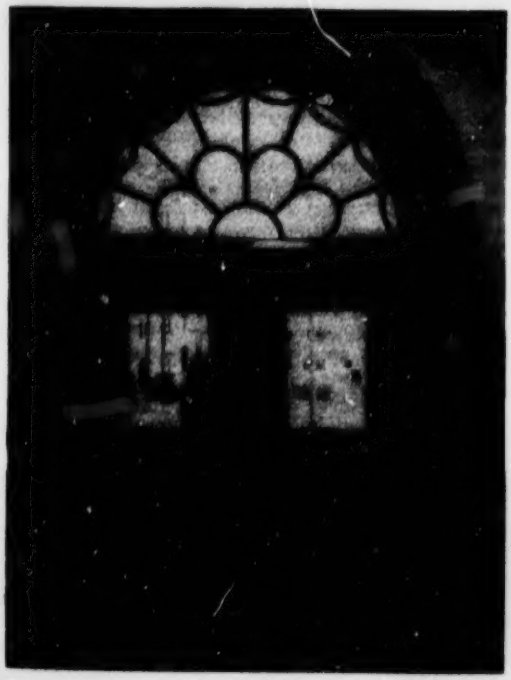
Although outside the limits of this study, multi-functional buildings containing court quarters were built at both Grand Falls and Corner Brook under Churchill's term as inspector of public buildings. Both of these structures were designed by private architects: the former by Jonas C. Barter of St. John's,[49] the latter by J. Melville of Montreal.[50] The Grand Falls Public Building



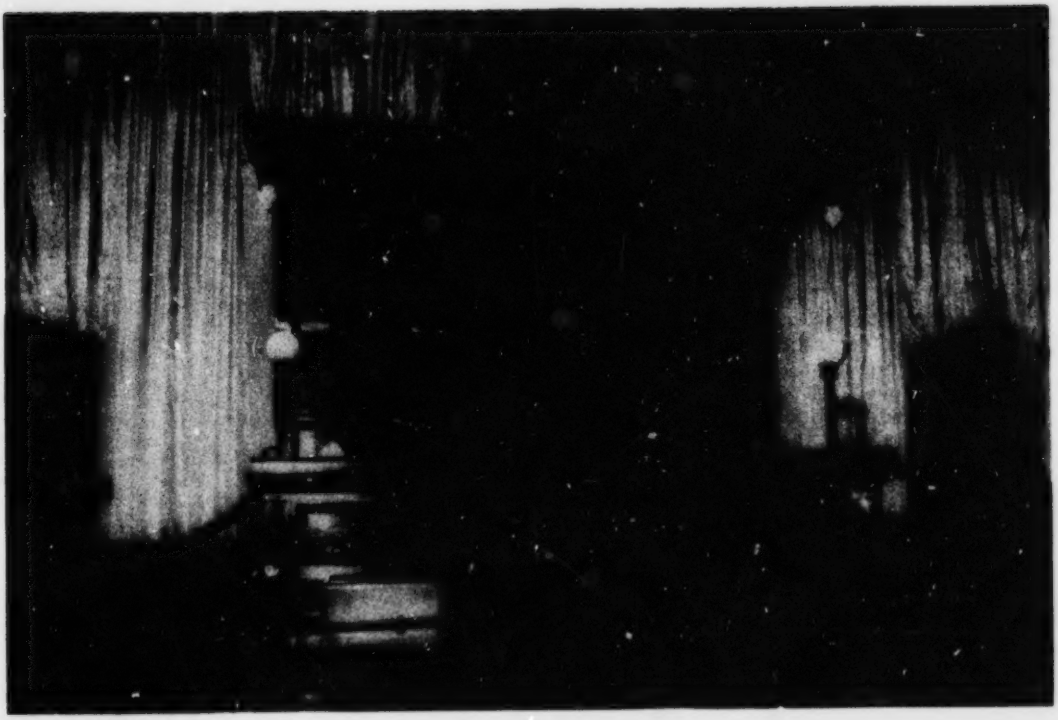
12 Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland

See also Figure 11. This drawing shows the Duckworth Street facade of the court building. Its architect, William H. Greene, also designed the Cabot Tower and the Petits Building (Ayer's Store) on Water Street in St. John's. (Moses Harvey, *Newfoundland at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century* [New York: South Publishing Co., 1902], p. 103)

13 Court House, St. John's
See also Figure 11. A political controversy erupted when Halifax builder S.M. Brookfield was given the contract to build this court house in preference to local bidders. As a compromise, most subcontracts for materials went to Newfoundland firms. W.E. Ellis furnished stone from the Petites quarries and whinstone from Kelly's Island, Conception Bay. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)



14 Court House, St. John's
See also Figure 11. Wood for this court house was supplied by the Horwood Lumber Company in an attempt to "put bread back into the mouths of Newfoundlanders." Rich black walnut was used to enhance the distinguished appearance of the main entrance on Water Street. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)



15 Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland

See also Figure 11. The judges' dais in the Supreme Court Room is an impressive array of panelled oak crowned by the royal coat of arms. The courtroom itself is two storeys and is entered through a set of oak doors placed under a semicircular fanlight. Its coved ceiling looks down upon a mosaic floor of intricate patterns, and four high-arched windows provide light. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

was the first public building in Newfoundland built of reinforced concrete. Unfortunately, the centres they served outgrew them both and they were replaced by other buildings.

Churchill retired in 1927 and in 1933 official reports recorded approximately twenty-six court houses on the island.[51] After World War II, improved transportation reduced the need for so many buildings. Once-thriving centres, such as Trinity and Burin, lost their status as judicial centres, and their court houses were converted to other purposes. Others, such as the Twillingate Court House (1884), burned down. Lastly, newer and more efficient structures replaced often ill-maintained, poorly lit and inadequate structures such as the Bell Island Court House (1900). As a result, only nine court houses remain in Newfoundland in 1977, and this figure will probably be reduced in the next several years, for most of these are aging wooden structures and not all have borne the marks of time well. This is the end product of a court system that maintained approximately forty court houses at the turn of the century.

Today, court premises are sometimes rented, and it is not unknown for court cases to be held aboard the magistrate's launch. In some ways judicial facilities in Newfoundland have turned full circle - today as in the eighteenth century, courts occur in large centres and aboard ship.

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

C.A. Hale

Introduction

A close parallel exists between both the judicial and administrative history and the architectural evolution of court houses in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. That of Prince Edward Island is somewhat different, given its relatively circumscribed geographical area and small, scattered population. The Annapolis Valley area of Nova Scotia was settled by the Acadians in the early 1600s. What was then known as Acadia, which included New Brunswick, became a battlefield for the French and the English, each of whom fought for control of the area. By the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Acadia was ceded to Britain and the British then adopted a strong colonization policy taking the form of generous offers to ex-servicemen to settle in Nova Scotia. Little progress in immigration was made during the first half of the eighteenth century, but in 1749 a fortified settlement was established in Halifax, which had previously been called Chebucto. The first colonists consisted of New Englanders, British and Germans. Four years later, over one thousand inhabitants of continental origin transferred from Halifax to Lunenburg. In the latter part of the eighteenth century many New Englanders settled in the colony and supported themselves by farming, fishing and trading. They established such communities as Dublin, Chester, Windsor, Annapolis Royal, Amherst, Barrington, Liverpool and Truro in Nova Scotia, and Saint John and Gagetown in New Brunswick. Until the 1780s, however, the hinterland area, now covered by New Brunswick, remained sparsely settled.

The largest single influx of settlers to Nova Scotia occurred between 1783 and 1785, after the American Revolution. The wave of immigration was sufficiently large to warrant the creation of New Brunswick as a province separate from Nova Scotia in 1784. The Loyalists consolidated Maritime settlement and provided Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with a solid core of settlers of British origin. The form of government established in the two provinces by the British is the foundation of our present system. It was based on a similar type of government evolved in Tudor England and transplanted to the southern colonies, in particular, Virginia. In the view of the British administrators, one of the major factors contributing to the revolutionary fervour in the thirteen colonies was the practice of powerful local government in the north. As a precaution, they instituted a system of local government deriving its power directly from a central authority in the provincial capital, that is, the governor and his council.

Although this centralized system had been functioning in Nova Scotia before the arrival of the Loyalists, their major addition to the population ensured its continuance and strengthened British administration. The peninsular part of Nova Scotia had been divided into five counties for administrative purposes by an order in council in 1759. The first counties were Halifax, Annapolis, Lunenburg, Kings and Cumberland. Several townships had also been designated for administrative and representative purposes. Over the years, as the population expanded, more counties were created by subdivision and annexation, and by 1851 the present total of eighteen was reached. Six of these counties were divided into two districts each, making a total of twenty-four administrative units functioning as major subdivisions of the centralized system in Nova Scotia.

The Province of New Brunswick was subdivided into county and parish units in 1785 and the counties of St. John, Westmorland, York, Sunbury, Charlotte, Kings, Queens and Northumberland were set up as administrative units. The New Brunswick legislature confirmed the arrangement in 1786. As settlement expanded, new counties were formed within the territory of the eight original counties, and by 1873 the present total of fifteen was reached.

More densely populated than Prince

Edward Island, the total population of which was only 271 in 1769 and of these, 203 were non-British,[1] it is not surprising that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia developed a more complex system of justice linked with local administration from an early date. At the local level, magistrates, or justices of the peace appointed by the Crown, exercised power on behalf of the Crown. These agents assembled several times a year in county or district quarter sessions to deal with legal cases. They also appointed parish and county officials and supervised local administration. An important symbol of this regime became the county or district court house, which was located in the shiretown of each county or district where the quarter sessions, as well as the Supreme Court of initial jurisdiction, were held. While these buildings also served as a social gathering place, their primary purpose was to represent the central government and to provide accommodation for its representatives. It was here that cases were tried and other administrative decisions were made. These included the levying of taxes for the provision of local services, the opening and closing of roads, the paving of streets, the erection of lights, the licensing of taverns, the allocation of sites and funds for public buildings, markets, wharves, etc., and their construction and maintenance.

Although the justices of the peace held their appointments at the pleasure of the Crown and were technically subject to central control and direction, in practice they had considerable freedom in the management of local affairs.[2] The Legislative Assembly was responsible for voting public moneys for local benefit, but local magnates dominated the assembly and sometimes controlled the magistrates in their communities. Prominent assembly men were often magistrates themselves and they had the right to nominate local justices. County (or district) government thus became the most important division of local administration in the province, and remained so until the turn of the century.

The history of the judicial system in Prince Edward Island can be summarized as being the formation of a strong central court in the mid-eighteenth century, its decentralization in the 1870s with the formation of county courts, and a gradual movement toward reconsolidation which has eliminated county courts altogether. The evolution of the island court houses follows this pattern.

An isolated outpost for Louisbourg throughout the early part of the eighteenth century, Prince Edward Island, then called Isle St. Jean, fell to the British in 1745, was returned to the French in 1748, and after ten years again fell to the British. For forty years the island's French name was merely Anglicized, but in 1798 the assembly passed an act, which received royal confirmation the following year, to change it to its present designation.

When the British assumed control after the Treaty of Paris of 1763, the island was temporarily annexed to Nova Scotia and administered to some extent from Halifax. The small colony was surveyed and divided into sixty-seven lots and the present three counties, with Charlottetown as its capital. By an order in council in 1769, the British king authorized the establishment of a new government which included a governor, a council and a Supreme Court. No provision, however, was made until 1873 for a system of county courts.

The influx of Scottish and Loyalist settlers to the island toward the end of the eighteenth century created a serious need for judicial regulations. Still, by the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century the system of judicial government remained rudimentary. One historian noted the practice of law was almost negligible - even as late as 1809 there were only six persons with legal training besides the chief justice, and, said Governor Des Barres in 1810, "The profits of the profession of law will not maintain a Gentleman."[3] It was not until 1838 that the chief justice was excluded from the executive council, thus separating judicial and executive powers. With the appointment of one salaried assistant judge in 1848 and a second in 1859, the role of the Supreme Court as the principal judicial organ in the colony was secured. Under this system, minor cases were decided by appointed magistrates who resided in the more remote populated areas of the province.[4]

The legal and/or administrative systems of all three provinces underwent a decentralization process in the 1870s. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by that time, the financial burden of maintaining the old centralized system, as well as the enormous amount of legislation required to administer it, forced

the provincial governments to transfer much of the responsibility and expense of local government to the counties or districts. By 1877 all counties in New Brunswick were incorporated as municipalities and in 1879 Nova Scotia followed suit. What had earlier been the prerogative of the Legislative Assembly was, after incorporation, accomplished by municipal by-laws through power delegated to municipal councils. The responsibility for erecting and maintaining municipal buildings, including the county or district court house, was also transferred to the municipality.

On the island the judicial system and its accommodation changed little until the 1870s when rapid development and Confederation brought about both a reorganization of the system and a spate of building. The new buildings were of two kinds: those in the county seats took on the function of housing sittings of the county courts as well as circuits of the Supreme Court; while in other districts of the counties, new buildings emerged solely for the use of the circuits of the county courts. The erection of a separate court house as a companion to Province House on Queen Square heralded this new era. It was a three-storey brick structure built in 1872 on the site of the present Confederation Centre. The first floor contained government offices, the second floor a courtroom, while offices related to the judiciary were situated above.[5] With the advent of Confederation in 1873, this building was designated for use by the Dominion Government necessitating the construction of a third provincial building on Queen Square to flank the other side of Province House. This was the present Law Courts Building, begun in 1874 and intended primarily for a judicial function.

The greatest change in Prince Edward Island's judicial system came with the passing of an act establishing county courts of judicature in 1873.[6] Although this act was brought about by the need to decentralize the machinery of justice on the island, it was no doubt encouraged by the promise of federal support to pay the judges' salaries after Confederation. The act created county courts, a level of justice between the Supreme Court and the magistrates. These new courts assumed the role of the commissioners for the recovery of small debts, that is, the responsibility for minor civil litigation as well as some types of criminal offences. The act provided for the appointment of a judge for each county and established five circuits each in Prince and Kings counties and six circuits in Queens County. Sittings were to be held at specified places for each circuit every second month. Places designated for the Prince County circuits were Alberton, Port Hill, Abrams Village, Summerside and Centreville. The circuits for Queens County were to be held in Clifton, Bonshaw, New Glasgow, Ten Mile House, Eldon and Charlottetown. Kings County was to have circuit courts at St. Peters Bay, Souris East, Grand River (later specified as Dundas), Georgetown and Murray River. It was during the 1870s that the island experienced its most intensive period of court house construction.

While the decentralized county system still functions with some variations in Nova Scotia, the affairs of the elective municipal or county councils (not including villages, towns and cities) in New Brunswick were taken over by the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs in 1967. In the same year, the Department of Supply and Services assumed responsibility for the maintenance of court houses and other public buildings formerly within the county jurisdiction.

In Prince Edward Island the County Court Amendment Act of 1878 regulated the courts to sit quarterly instead of bimonthly.[7] In 1939 the third circuit of Prince County, sitting at Abrams Village, was abolished and its duties referred to the fifth circuit at Summerside.[8] In 1940 the Act to Amend the County Courts Act drastically reduced the number of circuits in the province.[9] Hereafter Queens County had two sittings at Clifton and Charlottetown. Prince County was reduced to the same number, two, at Albertson and Summerside. Kings County had four, at Souris, St. Peters, Murray River and Georgetown. Finally, in 1975, an act was passed repealing the County Court Act of 1873.[10] Under this new act, jurisdiction of the county courts passed to the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island which is the only court above that of the magistrates' level in the province.

The administration of justice on the island reverted to the system employed before Confederation, with one court holding regular assizes at designated places. The principal

sittings are at Summerside, Georgetown and Charlottetown but there are also assizes at Souris and Alberton. At these last two locations, the original court buildings have been abandoned in favour of more modern, rented premises. There is a tendency to favour more and more litigation at Charlottetown; consequently further consolidation is likely. The reason behind this centralization is the modern automobile which now makes a trip to the capital and back possible in one day from any part of the island. As well, the judicial system is being streamlined in an attempt by the province to adapt to the realities of a small population and compact geography, both of which made the type of machinery in effect in other provinces unnecessary.

Pre-1830 Maritime Court Houses: Temporary Accommodations and the Court House/Jail

The survival and maintenance of the culture, civilization and orderly settlement of the new colonies depended upon the establishment of religion, education and the administration of justice. Like most public buildings, the county court house was throughout its history an ornament to the community and a symbol of its sophistication and legal organization. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the early architectural expression of the administration of justice and local affairs was the county or district court house, as well as the provincial legislative buildings which housed the Supreme Court, located in their respective capitals, whereas Prince Edward Island's most accurate symbol remained the building that housed the Supreme Court until the 1870s. Considering that lumbering was one of the Maritime provinces' major industries, it is not surprising that most of their early buildings were constructed of wood, which was cheap and locally abundant. Most of the churches, court houses, commercial and industrial buildings constructed before the mid-nineteenth century and even later in Prince Edward Island were timber structures. Among the public buildings, many of those devoted to commercial and industrial purposes have since burned and been replaced by brick and/or stone structures. Those public buildings that have survived as monuments of early settlement are frequently churches and court houses, both symbols of the moral and spiritual foundation of the provinces' early colonial society: "the Bible and the Crown."[11] On the occasion of the opening of New Brunswick's grandiose St. John County Court House in 1829, Judge Botsford remarked that "Religion and Mortality are the foundations of true greatness; they are the pillows upon which the British Constitution rests, and by which it is supported."[12] The early county court accommodations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were crude and temporary. The need for judicial regulation and local administration was immediate but the initial expenses of large-scale residential construction delayed the erection of public buildings. Few actual court house buildings were constructed in either province before 1800. During this early period, the courts were held in large residences, churches, taverns, markets and even barns, all of which were centrally located for convenient access and sufficiently spacious to accommodate the proceedings and spectators.

In New Brunswick's St. John County, for example, the first building housing the county courts in 1785 was a centrally located, modest frame structure (Fig. 1) which served a variety of purposes, including a place of worship for the Episcopal Church. In approximately 1797, the courts were moved to the upper flat of city hall, which was located on Market Square. The building also contained a market with several meat stalls and a public inn known as "Hell's Kitchen." A bell at the top of the building was used both as a fire alarm and for notifying jurymen of the time of the court sittings. By 1826 construction began on the county's first court house, which was to be shared by the city courts and administrative offices, the county and the provincial courts. The county courts operated in city hall until about 1829, when the present St. John County Court House was completed.[13]

In the late eighteenth century, the courts for Northumberland County, New Brunswick, were temporarily accommodated in various private homes. In 1791, rather than construct a building, the county was compelled by inadequate finances to purchase a piece of land on which several buildings had already been erected. A dwelling on the property was converted into a court house, and another

1 Old City Hall, Market Square, Saint John, New Brunswick
Built 1790s (no longer standing); architect unknown. Artist's sketch of the old city hall, Saint John, New Brunswick. This building housed the county court and offices of St. John County from about 1797 until 1829 when the present court house was almost completed. (New Brunswick Historical Society, The New Brunswick Museum)

building into a jail. Unfortunately, the dwelling was already occupied by a man named William Ledden, who refused to move out. This arrangement was accompanied by a rather surprising distraction. In 1812 Ledden was fined ten pounds and ordered to cease his fiddling during the sittings of the court.[14] A court house was completed three years later.[15]

The range of court house accommodations in Nova Scotia during this period were equally diverse, as the following sampling clearly indicates. Before the Antigonish District Court House was built in 1822, for example, the Supreme Court convened in the Presbyterian church. A local man's kitchen was converted into a jury room and a schoolhouse nearby was used as a retiring room by the grand jury.[16] Before a district court house was erected in Pictou in 1813, a variety of temporary structures served the courts, for example, private homes, a shop and a tavern. Apparently the first sittings of the Supreme Court at Pictou were held in a carpenter's shop, or barn, the lower end of which was occasionally used for a pigpen which extended

under the building. During the summers, members of the grand jury retired to a nearby pasture to consider their verdicts.[17] In Digby, a local market building provided accommodation for the court of common pleas and the general sessions during the same early period.[18] Another interesting case is Barrington District, where local meetings were held in private homes, schools and the local meeting house before 1843, when the town hall was completed. The meeting house was a place of worship and was also used for town business meetings and elections. The church officials eventually insisted that the meeting house be used exclusively for religious purposes and in 1838 they locked the doors on the town officials. Five years later the community had constructed a town hall, which became the court house for Barrington District when it was established as a separate administrative unit in 1854.[19]

In Prince Edward Island the circuit sittings of the Supreme Court were held in a variety of buildings, while the Supreme Court's permanent home remained fixed in Charlottetown. The first building erected to accommodate a court of law on the island was designed by John Plaw and built in 1811 on Queen Square in Charlottetown, on the site of the present Confederation Centre. This was a one and a half storey wooden structure, approximately fifty-five by thirty-five feet. It was Georgian in design and housed the assembly room on the first floor and a Supreme Court Room above. The building linked the three parts of government in one solid symbol of authority. As a newspaper pointed out in 1875, "The Court House was then in the zenith of it's glory and its usefulness. It formed the capital of the colony. In it the legislature held its sessions, and in it justice was administered."[20]

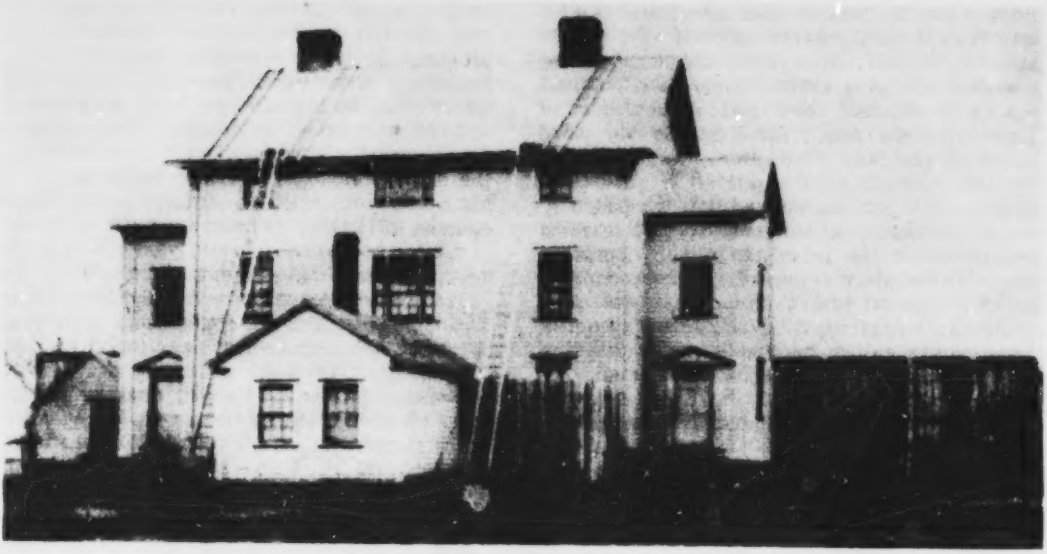
This building was replaced by the Colonial Building, later called Province House in 1847. Designed by Isaac Smith, this is a more formal example of classicism in a public building than its predecessor and, surprisingly, is a rare example of this style on the island. The building was designed principally to house government offices and the council chambers but the east end of the first floor contained a courtroom and judges' chambers.[21] The building was meant to symbolize the British tradition, for the governor, Sir Henry Vere Huntly, said on the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone, "I trust that a new era of prosperity will open in this colony, and I am satisfied that the walls about to rise over this stone will resound with sentiments expressive of British feelings, British principals and British loyalty."[22]

In the country as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia during the early period, the magistrates used ad hoc locations such as inns, schoolhouses and farmhouses as temporary courtrooms. Walter Johnstone, a traveller, described such a court after visiting the small room of a tavern in a remote part of the island in 1822.

> When I got near the centre of the apartment, I saw some drinking rum, others considerably affected with what they had drunk. On the opposite side there were three magistrates seated upon a plank, holding a court of law. The day being warm, and the house crowded, some of them were sitting without their coat. The magistrates being of nearly the same rank in life with those who were appearing before them, very little respect was paid to their authority or their orders. I observed one of the defenders, who was also without the coat, often clench his fist behind him, ready to give the prosecutor a blow when he could not carry his point with milder arguments; and every movement I looked for this method of overcoming his antagonist being resorted to.[23]

After the appointment of commissioners for the recovery of small debts in 1832, courts continued to be held in similar locales.

The principal judicial organ, however, remained the Supreme Court. This caused some problems as the population of the island increased, for under the provisions of an act passed in 1773, all criminal cases had to be tried at Charlottetown.[24] Since many civil cases were also tried there, this meant that the residents of the more remote parts of the island were troubled by lengthy and arduous journeys to attend court. An attempt was made to solve this problem in 1818 by passing an act permitting the construction of jails and court houses, but the act did not receive final approval.[25] It was not until 1833 that an act was passed permitting the Supreme Court to sit in Prince and Kings counties, at St.



2 St. Eleanors Court House, St. Eleanors, Prince Edward Island
Built 1832 (demolished 1970s); architect unknown. Elevation of court house at St. Eleanors. After 1875 this building was converted into a school. (Great Britain. Public Record Office)

Eleanors and Georgetown, respectively, twice each year as soon as court houses and jails were erected in these counties.[26] The first buildings erected primarily for the purpose of a court house on the island were the result of this act. Two large, three-storey wood-frame buildings were erected at St. Eleanors (Fig. 2) and Georgetown. These court houses were domestic in form but classical in detail. Apparently almost identical, they had probably been designed by Isaac Smith about 1832.[27] The court met for the first time at St. Eleanors in 1834 and at Georgetown in 1835.[28] These buildings were not, strictly speaking, county court houses since their legal function was confined to housing the Supreme Court when it went on circuit; in this they resembled buildings of the English assize courts, which held sittings of the circuit judges who originated with the Court of King's Bench. Not until the 1870s, with the province's partial decentralization program, did Prince Edward Island again experience a significant period of court house building. In contrast to the other two provinces, the designs of these later buildings were regulated by a standard design provided by the Department of Public Works.

The prolongation of the informal arrangements observed in the early history of court accommodations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick invariably created problems. A more specialized building was the result. As the administrative and judicial system expanded and became regularized, an edifice constructed specifically for the accommodation of the courts and their related offices became necessary in terms of efficiency and convenience, and as a symbol of law and order. The history of the York County Court House in Fredericton is a particularly good illustration of the inconvenience of combining a number of unrelated activities within a single court house. For many years the York County courts were maintained in a building also housing the local market. Eventually the practical and commercial aspect of the

market proved incompatible with the aesthetic and functional requirements of the court house. In 1817, after receiving six hundred pounds to build a court house, four hundred pounds less than they had requested, the justices of the peace for York County were forced to purchase a two-storey wooden building already erected for a market (Fig. 3). The grant to the justices ensured that the property would continue to be reserved for the market, regardless of the presence of the courts of law. Although the purchase of the market building was at the time perhaps the most economical solution, what should have been a temporary measure became a nuisance. The association between the county courts and the market, as stipulated in the original grant, eventually became a distinctly unpalatable arrangement. County ratepayers living outside the city of Fredericton objected to the presence of a city market in the court house for which they were financially responsible. Court officials objected that two such diverse activities as the administration of law and the operation of a market should be conducted in the same building. To quote Judge Street in his address to the grand jury at the court opening in 1853:

> At times I have had to sit here at this season of the year when the thermometer in the open air, out of the sun, has been up to 95 deg. for several days together, with this room crowded and the market stalls below covered with dead meats, and the unpleasant effluvia which in hot weather

3 Market and York County Court House, 635 Queen Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick Built ca. 1815 (no longer standing); architect unknown. Barracks (*right*) and Market House (*left foreground*, with bell tower and weather vane), ca. 1932. In 1817 the purchase of a new market building was York County's solution to the need for county court accommodations. While initially convenient, the building's continued use as a market became a source of irritation for the court interests. (Joseph Bouchette, *The British Dominions in America, or a Topographical and Statistical Description of the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia; the Island of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton* [London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green and Longman, 1832], facing p. 92)

> arises therefrom. At other times in wet weather the building has been so leaky that the rain has come down through the ceiling to such a degree as to make it almost necessary for the gentlemen of the law and others having business in Court to fix umbrellas over their heads at the table.

In addition, certain residents of the city wanted to have the market moved to another end of town; they therefore resented contributing to the maintenance of the court house market. After some sixty years of controversy, the market was finally removed, and the court house was devoted entirely to its intended function.[29]

By the early 1800s, then, most communities were ready to erect an edifice for the specific use of the courts and related offices. Not only was the earlier arrangement inconvenient, but there was serious need for a distinct symbol of justice to represent and reinforce the new system of government. One of the major themes in the evolution of court house structures in the two provinces is the physical relationship between the registry of deeds, the jail and the actual courtrooms and related offices. Many of the first court houses built in the early nineteenth century were designed to combine the court house and jail within a single structure, with the registry of deeds located in a separate building (often the private home of the clerk or registrar). The court houses built towards the end of the nineteenth century were larger than their predecessors and usually incorporated the registry office within the court house, with the jail in a detached building.

The earliest court houses frequently contained a jail in their lower storeys. During the first half of the nineteenth century and in many cases even later, the incarceration of prisoners was more important than their rehabilitation which would have required more elaborate facilities. Consequently, the limited jail facilities in the lower storey of the court houses, with the courtroom and associated offices above, was considered sufficient. It was a convenient arrangement for the transportation of prisoners to and from the court house, at a time when overland transportation systems were undeveloped; as well, it was a measure of economy in construction. During this period, many of the prisoners were debtors who were able to work off their debts and support themselves and their families by obtaining employment within prescribed jail limits.[30] It was therefore practical to have the jail centrally located. For example, New Brunswick's Kings County jail contained eight prisoners throughout 1836: seven debtors and one felon.[31] By the turn of the century this consideration was unnecessary because people were no longer imprisoned for indebtedness.

None of the earliest nineteenth century court house/jail structures have survived in New Brunswick, but several communities in the province did use this type of building initially. Early examples of the arrangement were once found in Charlotte County, before a separate jail was built in 1839; in Kings County, where a separate jail was constructed in Kingston in 1840; and in Queens County before 1836, when the present court house was erected. The combination of legal administration and criminal confinement within a single structure was partly determined by economic considerations. Although the separation of these functions into two buildings usually followed, both the present Gloucester and Victoria county court houses in New Brunswick are more recent exceptions. The Gloucester County Court House constructed in 1900-1902 and the Victoria County Court House built in 1877-79 combined the jail and the court house within the same building. The jail section of the latter, however, was recently replaced by a detached building located about six miles outside the town.

Historic records reveal many examples of combination court house/jail buildings built in Nova Scotia during the first half of the nineteenth century, and even later. The bulk of them, however, were replaced by the 1850s. In Kings County, for example, a two-storey wooden structure was constructed in Kentville to house a jail and the courts in 1829. When this building burned in 1849, two separate buildings for the two functions were constructed.[32] Both Guysborough and Pictou had a similar arrangement in the early 1800s. In Guysborough around 1790, a single one-storey court house/jail, which contained a large courtroom, a jail and an apartment for the jailor, is reported to have been erected. This structure was replaced in 1825 by a second court house/jail, which was more spacious, but which still combined the two

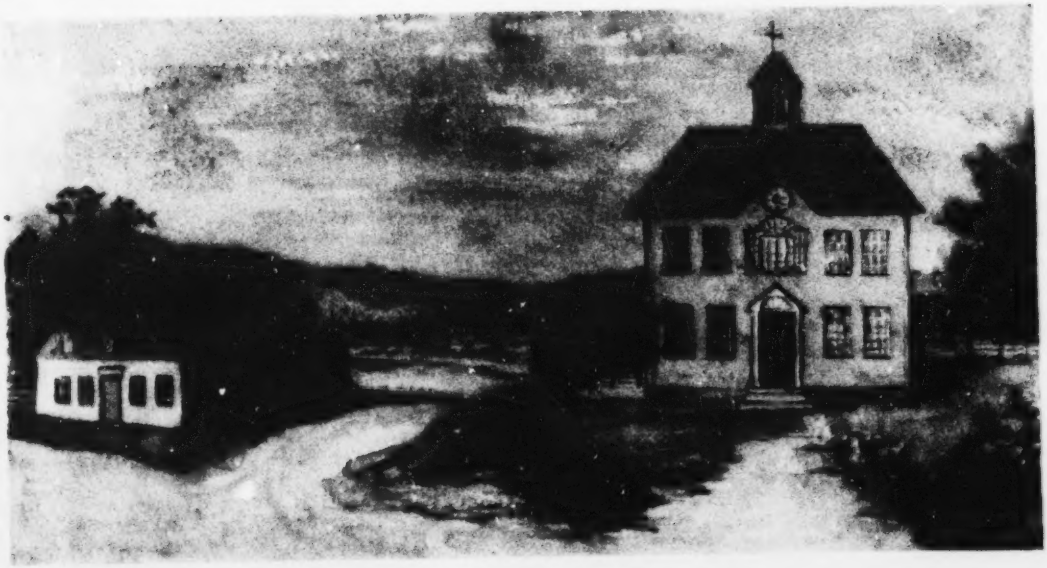
functions in one building. Not until 1843 was a detached court house building erected there.[33] A court house/jail was constructed at Pictou in 1813. Criminals were confined in the basement of this building, while the ground floor contained the jailor's quarters and some cells. The second storey contained the courtroom, jury rooms and the jailor's sleeping quarters. By 1857, when a separate court house was constructed at Pictou, the old building was used entirely by the jail.[34] The first court house constructed in Antigonish in 1821-22 also included a jail in the lower storey. The building was replaced in 1855 by the present court house which contains only the courtroom and its related offices.[35] Joseph Howe described these early combination buildings in 1831.

> The Court House and gaol, which in most of our country towns are comprised in the same building, have, in general, about as many attractions for the traveller, as they would have for a thief. Antigonish has its own, but it does not differ much from other edifices of the same order.[36]

In contrast to New Brunswick, a number of the combination buildings in Nova Scotia are extant and several are still in use. The Annapolis County Court House at Annapolis Royal is an example. Built as a court house and jail in 1837, this structure replaced a similar combination building which had been erected by about 1793 (Fig. 4) and which was a building such as Howe described. Other extant court houses in Nova Scotia that combined the two functions are the former Barrington District Court House constructed in 1841-43; the old Argyle District Court House at Tusket built in 1801-5; the early court house/jail in Pictou, extensively renovated and now the town administration building; and the Richmond County Court House in Arichat erected in 1846-47. One known exception to this traditional functional combination is the former Lunenburg County Court House, reputed to have been constructed in 1775 as a township court house. The building has been subject to many major renovations and it currently functions as a parish hall. Although little trace remains of the original form of the building, it is reported to have been almost square, with the courtroom as well as rooms for the judge and jury located on the ground floor, and a lawyers' room above. An interesting remnant of its earlier role has survived in the form of the royal coat of arms which dates between 1801 and 1811 and is painted on plaster and surrounded by a wooden frame on the wall of the former courtroom (Fig. 5). The present court house replaced the building in 1891.

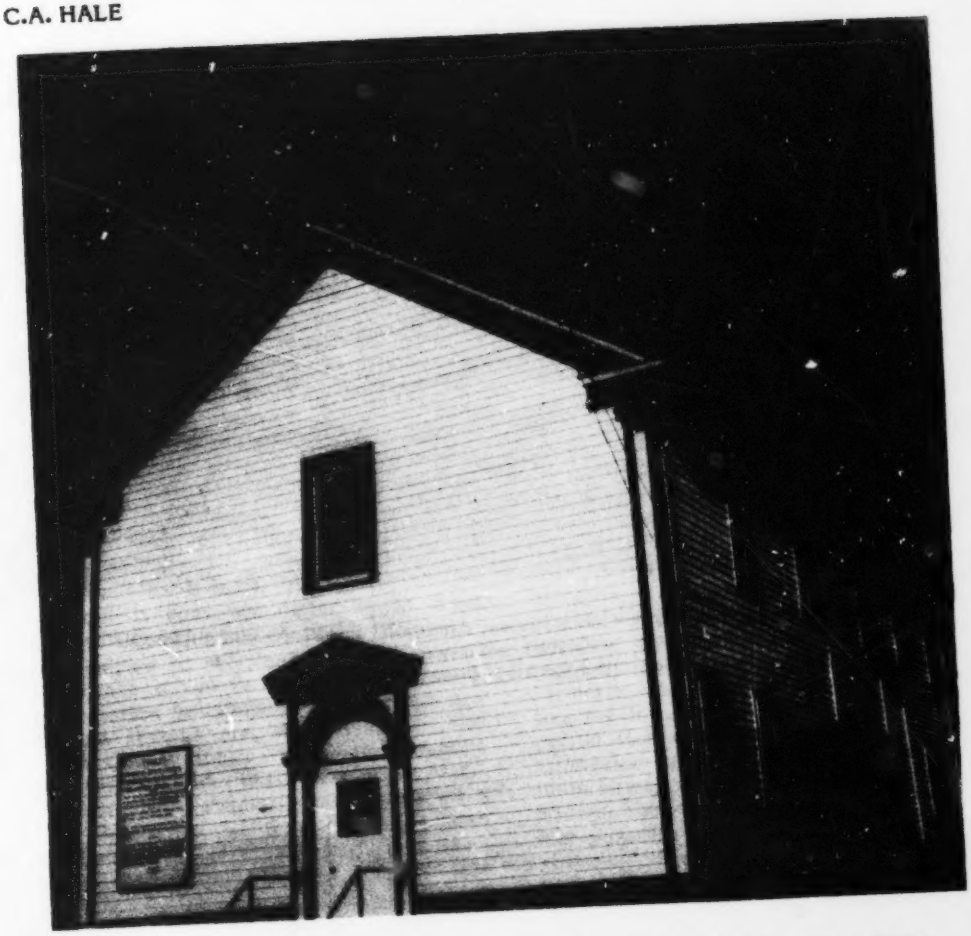
Built in 1801-5, the former Argyle District Court House /Jail is the oldest court house extant in Canada (Fig. 6). Tusket, a former Acadian community, was settled by Dutch United Empire Loyalists from New York and New Jersey in 1784-85. During the nineteenth century the village developed into one of the largest shipbuilding centres in the province. The design of the clapboarded building is simple, rectangular and solid, and like most nineteenth century court houses in the province, it has classical detailing. The length of the structure was doubled in 1833 and trebled in 1870. The facade, however, has undergone few changes. Its prominent main entrance is centrally located and is distinguished by Tuscan pilasters on either side of the door with a round arch above. Although now enclosed, it is likely that the arch formerly contained a semicircular fanlight, like the entrances of other court houses of the period (for example, Annapolis Royal). A triangular pediment further emphasizes the main entrance. Like many of the early court houses, the Argyle District Court House also has pilasters at the corners of the building stressing the solidity of its design. Subtlety of design and fine craftsmanship are evident in the gentle curve of the gable roof, the decoration under the eaves and the graceful proportions of the structure. The interior was remodelled in the 1870s when the courtroom was enlarged, but several features in the jail section (Fig. 7) are believed to be original. (This building is currenty rented for offices and its future is uncertain.) The former Argyle District Court House/Jail is one of the best examples of the early combined court house/jail type in the Maritimes.

An examination of material available on the old Barrington District Court House constructed in 1841-43 suggests that this building closely resembled the community's old meeting house (now a museum), built about one hundred years earlier. The meeting house (Fig. 8) was a typical Cape Cod structure built



4 Annapolis County Court House, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia
Built ca. 1793 (no longer standing); architect unknown. Artist's depiction of earlier Annapolis County Court House and Jail (*right*). (Public Archives of Nova Scotia)

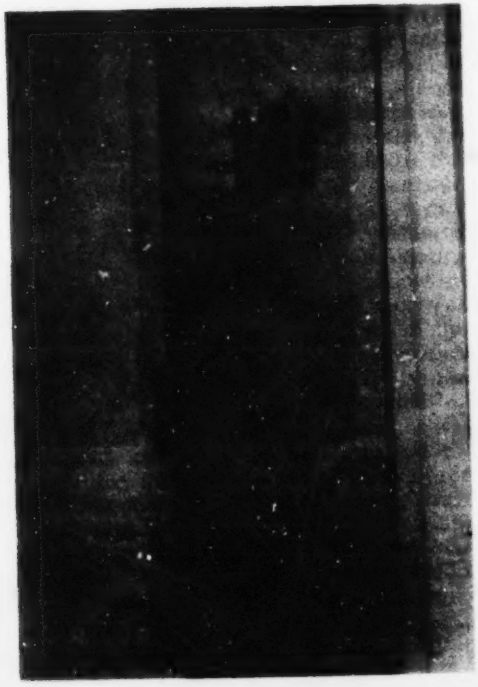
5 St. John's Parish Hall (former Township Court House), Cumberland Street, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
Built 1775; architect unknown. The royal coat of arms in the former courtroom area dates between 1801 and 1811. It is painted on the plaster wall of the former courtroom and is perhaps the most tangible evidence of the extensively renovated building's earlier function. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building; Knickle's Studio and Gallery, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia)



6 Former Argyle District Court House, Old Main Post Road, Tusket, Nova Scotia
Built 1801-5; architect unknown. The oldest extant court house in Canada. Like most of the early nineteenth century court houses in the East, it was constructed of wood and has classical detailing. A jail is located in the lower storey. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Fred A. Hatfield)

in 1765 by the original inhabitants of the community who were from Cape Cod and Nantucket. The original form of the two-storey court house conformed to the Georgian tradition and was constructed of local lumber. It had a symmetrical five-bay front and was a solid, well-proportioned structure with a medium pitched gable roof. A jail was accommodated on the ground floor, and the courts and related offices were located above. The building has been considerably altered since it was enlarged in the late nineteenth century. It has been used for a local meeting house since about 1970, when a new and larger municipal administration centre replaced it.

Another Nova Scotian court house built as

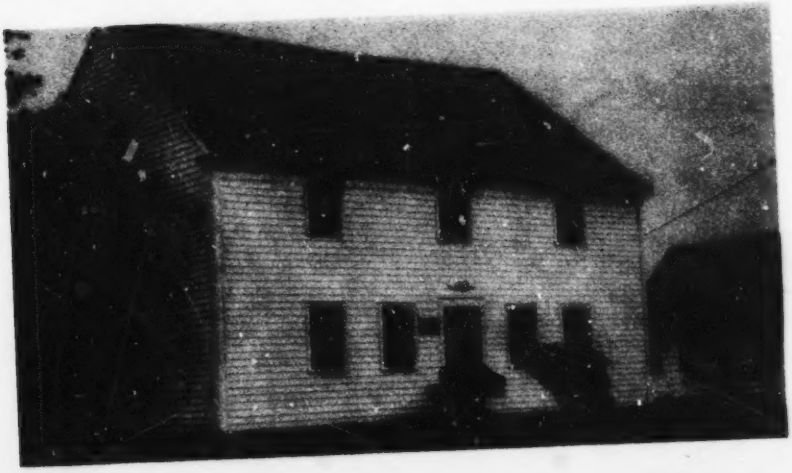


7 Former Argyle District Court House
See also Figure 6. Detail of cell door, jail section. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Fred A. Hatfield)

a combination court house/jail is the two-storey Annapolis County Court House. Completed in 1837, the design is dominated by classical details and the facade is balanced. The lower storey contains the jail while the courts and related offices are located in the upper storey. The jail entrance on the ground floor is plain compared to the second-storey entrance which consists of an elliptical transom above a set of double doors and is accentuated by a pediment supported by four large Tuscan columns. Still used as a court house and a jail, the interior of the building was extensively renovated in the 1920s, when its impressive wood-panelled courtroom was lengthened and redecorated. The upper storey, originally constructed of wood, is now covered with a stucco finish. Except for the replacement of its original chimneys and the addition of a wooden cupola and a rear section, the exterior of the building closely resembles the original.

Few professionally trained architects were available in the Maritime provinces during the first half of the nineteenth century. Carpenters (many of whom also engaged in shipbuilding), however, were numerous, and most court houses of this period were constructed of local wood, according to designs prepared by the local builder who usually followed the instructions of the grand jury. For this reason, many of the early court houses have a textbook formality in their designs which conforms to their New England antecedents, the meeting houses (for example, the old Barrington meeting house discussed earlier, and the Moncton Free Meeting House, Fig. 9). In fact, in many cases the designs of these early court houses appear to be extensions of local domestic architecture with applied porticoes or porches.

Often the largest and most important civic edifice in the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick communities (especially in the nineteenth century), the county court house expressed the pride, wealth and sophistication of the citizens. The responsibility of the builder, then, was to construct a solid structure both



8 Old Barrington Meeting House, Barrington, Nova Scotia
Built 1765. Built in the New England meeting house style by the original inhabitants from Cape Cod and Nantucket, this building type noticeably influenced the style of the Barrington District Court House built in 1841-43. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

9 Moncton Free Meeting House, 140 Steadman Street, Moncton, New Brunswick
Built 1821. In its simple form, hip-roof and plain clapboard exterior, this meeting house is similar to several early New Brunswick court houses, including the old Northumberland County Court House built in 1828-29, and Burton's old Sunbury County Court House built in 1833-35, which recently burned down. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

functionally efficient and aesthetically appealing, as well as dignified and ornamental. Because many early records and plans have not survived, many of the architects and builders of the early court houses are unknown. Biographical and professional information concerning those architects known to have designed court houses in the early period is limited and often incomplete for the same reason.

Court Houses in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Built in the 1830s-50s

The 1830s-50s marked the beginning of the separation of the jail from the court house and the accommodation of the two functions in two separate and somewhat larger buildings in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Although detached, the two buildings remained in most cases adjacent throughout the nineteenth century, with the jail placed somewhat to the rear of the court house. This arrangement, although more expensive, was preferable if the community could afford it, and most of them could by the mid-nineteenth century. The separation of the buildings allowed the architecture of the court house to be more stately and expressive of the dignity of the law, while the jail took secondary importance in this respect, as its prime function was the incarceration of prisoners.

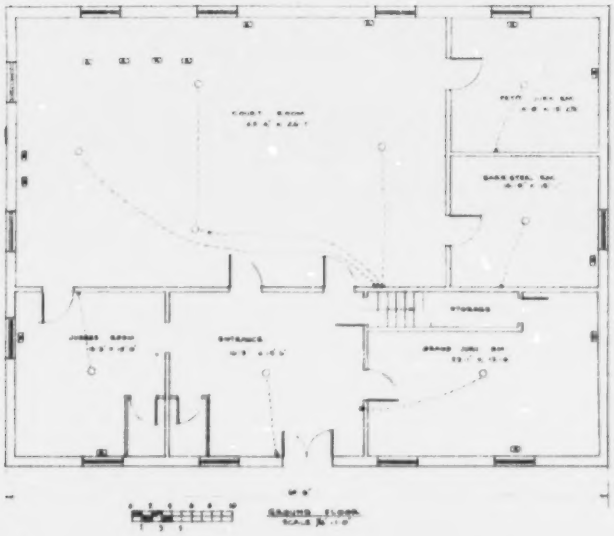
By the 1830s and 1840s most counties had separate accommodations for the county records, the jail and the courts. In the early part of the nineteenth century, the registry of deeds, wills, etc., had often been kept in the house of the registrar, or in several small wooden buildings in the community. From the point of view of regular working hours, accessibility and security, this arrangement was unsatisfactory, and in 1834 the New Brunswick legislature passed an act to provide for the safe-keeping of county records. The justices of the peace were, at their discretion, authorized to assess the county for a maximum of three hundred pounds to erect a building with safes, of stone or brick, near the court house. The building housed the offices of the registrar of wills and deeds, and the clerk of the inferior court of common pleas and the general sessions of the peace.[37]

The court houses erected in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia toward the mid-nineteenth century were plainly detailed wooden buildings accommodating a large courtroom, a judge's chambers, a barristers' room, as well as rooms for the grand and the petit juries. They were frame buildings, the design of which incorporated certain ornamental details peculiar to their type. Although lumber was abundant and cheap, a sense of the monumental which would distinguish the court house from other buildings in the community was required for the courts of law. A convenient solution was found in the prominent, elevated site, the columned portico and in the use of masonry detail translated into wood. In basic form, they also exhibited the style of the New England meeting house. Examples of this type of building in New Brunswick are the Sunbury (1833-35), Queens (1836-37) and Charlotte (1839-40) county court houses, as well as the former Carleton (1833-34) and Northumberland (1828-29) county court houses. All these buildings are solidly built and symmetrical with prominent main entrances and a simple interior plan.

The Sunbury County Court House built in 1833-35 at Burton, New Brunswick, burned down on 20 July 1979. The building was, however, typical of this mid-century group. It had an arched main entrance with a fanlight over the door which is framed with pilasters. The central pediment was supported by two square columns. Masonry features translated into wood, such as quoins and flat keystone arches with radiating voussoirs above large windows, contrasted the plain wooden structure and contributed to the appearance of solidity.

Both the Queens (1839-40) (Fig. 10) and the Charlotte (1836-37) county court houses were designed in the vernacular style with a classical portico their main visual feature. Consisting of one and a half storeys, a medium pitched roof, with five bays, the two structures are almost identical (*see* Queens County Court House floor plan, Fig. 11). Each has a substantial pediment supported by four large Tuscan columns, giving the buildings a temple impression. Their appearance of solidity is enhanced by pilasters at the corners. An elaborately carved royal coat of arms representing the British origins of the Loyalists who settled there appears on the

10 Queens County Court House, 60 Queen Street, Gagetown, New Brunswick
Built 1836-37; architect unknown. This building had the temple facade and general proportions characteristic of the court houses built in the mid-nineteenth century in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The design of the Charlotte County Court House in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, is similar, but the Gagetown example is exceptional in that it so closely resembles its original condition. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

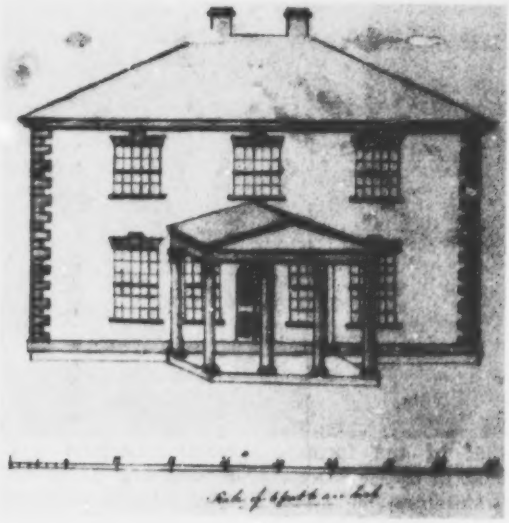


11 Queens County Court House
See also Figure 10. Built 1836-37; architect unknown. Plan of interior layout, showing lighting and heating system, 1970. Observe the simple layout typical of the one-storey type of court house in the area during this period. (New Brunswick. Department of Supply and Services)

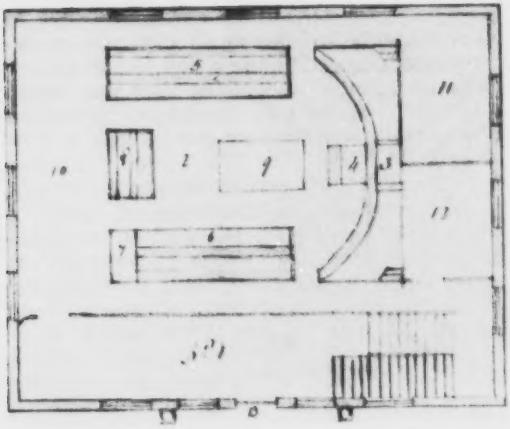
tympanum of the Charlotte County Court House. This court house was designed by Thomas Berry. Although little is known about Berry, the fact that he received the contract to build the court house suggests he was a well-known carpenter in the area. Berry made a number of changes to the plan supplied by the grand jury to make the building less "naked in appearance."[38] For example, he put heavy pilasters of seasoned pine at each of the four corners of the edifice and down both sides of the main door. Berry believed he had erected a building superior to any public building of its kind in the province in both its structure and workmanship.[39]

Of these three court houses, the Queens County Court House is closest to its original version, although it is unoccupied, in need of repairs and its future is undecided. Much of its original furniture, too, has been preserved. The Charlotte County Court House, which is extremely well maintained, has undergone few external changes, but the interior has been extensively renovated.

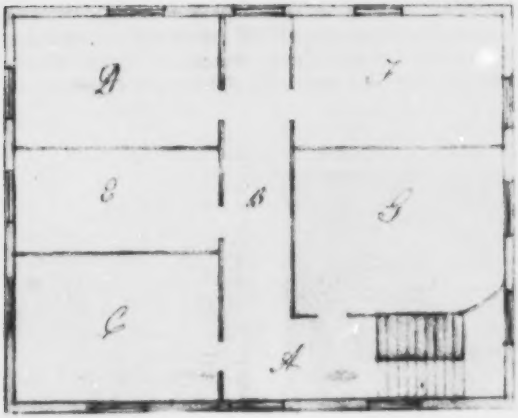
Both the former Northumberland and Carleton court houses are two storeys, but in other respects are similar to their one-storey contemporaries. The elevation of the former Carleton County Court House as it was before the 1865 renovations shows a hip-roofed edifice with a columned portico and a fanlighted doorway (Fig. 12). Like the other court houses of the period, wooden quoins and flat keystone arches consisting of radiating voussoirs are present. The former Northumberland County Court House in Newcastle is more simply ornamented, with pilasters and plain, flat window surrounds. A sturdy, solid building, its main feature is the central doorway consisting of a semicircular fanlight above double doors and a triangular pediment supported by engaged Tuscan columns tapering towards the top. Unlike the court houses constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century, these early buildings had their courtrooms on the ground floor, with miscellaneous county offices in the second storey (*see*, for example, 1833 plans of layout for Carleton County Court House at Upper Woodstock, Figs 13 and 14). They were therefore



12 Old Carleton County Court House, Court Street, Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick
Built 1833–34; architect unknown. Plan for front elevation dated 1833. Note quoin and window detail imitating masonry. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)



13 Old Carleton County Court House
See also Figure 12. Plan of ground floor dated 1833, showing entrance passage (1), courtroom (2), judge's bench (3), clerk's desk (4), grand jury box (5), petit jury box (6), sheriff's seat (7), prisoner's dock (8), table (9), public seating (10), judge's robing room (11), barristers' room (12), portico (13). (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)



14 Old Carleton County Court House
See also Figure 12. Plan of second floor dated 1833, showing staircase landing (A), corridor (B), grand jury room (C), petit jury room (D), offices (E,F,G). (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

directly accessible, if more subject to external disturbance than those with courtrooms on the second floor.

The architect or builder of the former Carleton County Court House in Upper Woodstock is unknown. William Murray, a well-known Scottish builder, designed the old Northumberland County Court House in 1828. He is credited with having designed and built several simple and elegant buildings in the Miramichi area during the early 1800s. The old Newcastle court house is widely considered to be a good example of the skill and fine craftsmanship of its builder. Both the former Northumberland and Carleton county court houses are being restored, the latter to its 1866 version which includes dramatic exterior and interior alterations.

Similar examples of this type of building in Nova Scotia are the St. Mary's District Court House constructed in 1858-60, the Antigonish County Court House erected in 1855, the

Queens County Court House erected in 1854, the former Guysborough District Court House built in 1842-43, as well as the Richmond County Court House completed in 1847. Consisting of one or two storeys, some with mezzanine storeys, these buildings contain a large courtroom, a judge's chambers and rooms for the petit and grand juries.

Three of these mid-nineteenth century court houses are known to have been designed and built by Alexander McDonald: those in Antigonish, Richmond County in Arichat (Fig. 15) and St. Mary's District in Sherbrooke. Named "Sandy the Carpenter," McDonald lived in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where he is reported to have designed and built several other prominent buildings.[40] A descendent of McDonald reports that the builder travelled to the New England States where he obtained building plans. The three court houses were apparently copies from the design of a court house in Maine.[41]

All three buildings are two storeys, gable-roofed and clapboarded and exhibit characteristics of the vernacular colonial Georgian style, with Greek Revival porticoes, a style derived from the New England States' building tradition. Their facades are symmetrical and their most outstanding decorative feature is a large temple-like portico consisting of four large voluted columns supporting a triangular pediment. This feature gives the otherwise plain, rectangular buildings a sense of grandeur, formality and additional height. Without the porticoes, the buildings would have been similar to the Barrington District Court House, which in turn resembles Barrington's old meeting house constructed in 1765. The addition of the portico, then, was a departure from the less formal and grandiose court houses of the early 1800s. The court houses in Antigonish and Richmond originally had pillars of the Greek Ionic order, while those of the later building at Sherbrooke are of the Greek Doric order.

From available illustrations, the former Colchester County Court House at Truro, constructed in 1844, appears to have been of similar design, with the impressive portico and bilateral symmetry. The builder of this court house, which has since been demolished, is unknown. The Richmond County Court House

15 Richmond County Court House, Arichat, Nova Scotia

Built 1846-47; Alexander McDonald, architect. Built and designed by Alexander McDonald, this is another of the wooden temple-front type of court house built in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the mid-nineteenth century. Two similar court houses in Nova Scotia also reputed to have been designed and built by McDonald are those in Antigonish and Sherbrooke, erected in 1855 and 1858, respectively. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

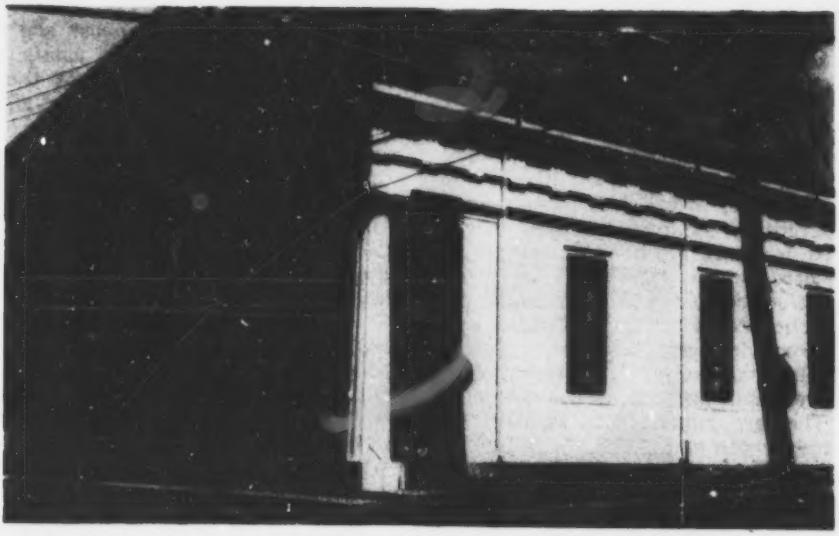
16 Former Guysborough District Court House, 283 Church Street, Guysborough, Nova Scotia Built 1842-43; Elisha Randall, builder. In basic form, this building is typical of the mid-nineteenth century type of court house with the Greek Revival porticoes, except that its central entrance is designated by the small, projecting, enclosed porch, and its windows are pointed, making it a unique variation. A mezzanine gallery inside provided standing room for the public. The court house is now a museum. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

was built as a combination court house/jail, with the jail on the ground floor and the courtroom and related offices above. The court houses at Antigonish and Sherbrooke, on the other hand, both built later, have their courtrooms on the ground floor, with balconies in their mezzanine storeys. This is evidence of the mid-nineteenth century trend in Nova Scotia towards the separation of the jail from the court house. The Richmond County Court House (and jail) is still in use; it has been well maintained on the exterior and the interior has been extensively renovated in recent years. The capitals of the columns at the front of the building were boxed in because they had deteriorated. The exterior of the court house at Antigonish is also well maintained, but fire damage in the early 1900s necessitated extensive renovations to the interior. Of the three buildings, the court house at Sherbrooke is the best preserved, since it has been restored as part of the historic Sherbrooke Village project. It continues to function as the court house for St. Mary's District. The Arichat court house, however, appears to be the earliest existing local prototype for this style.

The former Guysborough District Court House (Fig. 16), Nova Scotia, whose builder is unknown, was constructed in 1842-43. Although it differs slightly from McDonald's traditional design, its style is similar in its basic adherence to the plain symmetrical meeting house form, with minor variations. The building was constructed of local lumber as were its contemporaries, and like many of them, it replaced a combination court house/jail. It was situated along the main highway, next to the jail. A simple clapboarded structure with a gable roof, its most distinctive feature is its pointed, arched windows with a simple tracery pattern, which relieved the otherwise plain but solid aspect of the building. An enclosed porch projecting from the main entrance is emphasized by a pointed, arched window at the front. The Gothic arched windows represent a curiosity,

rather than a building distinctly different from its contemporaries. It is speculated that this peculiar innovation was the whim of the local designer or carpenter. As in its counterparts, the courtroom of this building occupies most of the first floor. Two small offices for the petit and grand juries were also located on the ground floor, and two later additions provided offices for the barristers and the judge. A balcony is situated in the mezzanine storey. (This court house has been restored by the local historical society and now functions as a museum.)

The Queens County Court House (Fig. 17) in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, built in 1854 by George Boehner, has been described as perhaps the finest example of the Greek Revival style in Nova Scotia.[42] The present court house replaced a structure described as truly disgraceful to the county. The new building was intended to be an ornament to the town and indeed it was.[43] Built in the classical temple style with a portico supported by four large, boldly fluted tapering Greek columns across the front, it is a one-storey wooden building with a low pitched gable roof and an elaborate cornice and frieze of the Greek Doric order. Although the sides are clapboarded, a sense of additional weight and solidity was achieved by scoring the walls of the facade to make them resemble blocks of stone. While the translation of masonry details into wood was common in the early New Brunswick court houses, it is rare among those that have survived in Nova Scotia. The large-scale decoration of the one-storey building gives it an unusual sense of the monumental. Its builder was prominent in the area and is believed to have designed the Lunenburg County Court House in the town of Lunenburg in the 1890s. Although the exterior of the Queens County Court House is intact, the interior has been extensively altered. It does, however, remain notable for its dramatic, classic exterior.



17 Queens County Court House, 141 Church Street, Liverpool, Nova Scotia
Built 1854; William G. Hammond, architect. Described as perhaps the finest example of the Greek Revival style in Nova Scotia, the Liverpool court house was designed by a local carpenter, William G. Hammond. In relation to the monumental aspect of the style, the sides of the building are somewhat incongruously clapboarded like many of the domestic buildings of the time; however, the wooden walls of the facade were scored to resemble blocks of stone. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, L.M.B. Friend)

The County Court House in Prince Edward Island in the 1870s: Flashback to Simple Design

While the island's County Courts Act of 1873 only indirectly influenced the building of the court houses in the three county towns, Summerside, Georgetown and Charlottetown, it had a direct effect on the programme of building smaller circuit courts. After the act was passed, accommodation was rented for the use of circuit courts until the special buildings could be erected. No doubt government debate on the propriety of some of the places designated for circuits was partly responsible for a delay in construction, for it would have been imprudent to commit money to a location where there would not be a justifiable number of cases. Consequently, it was not until late in 1874 that a programme of erecting circuit court houses began which lasted until 1877. During this period six circuit court structures were built constituting the only courts of this type erected by the province.

These county courts are so similar in design that a standard plan was obviously used. Each is forty-five feet long by twenty-five feet wide, with a front portico in the gable end and four large, semicircular-headed windows along its sides. While the construction of these buildings was the responsibility of the provincial Board of Works, the actual work was carried out by local contractors. Their cost tended to range from about fifteen to sixteen hundred dollars. The buildings are of frame construction with shingle sheathing. Like the earlier court houses in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, they are vernacular in style with classical details and are similar to rural churches, halls and schools (for example, Fig. 18). They are unique locally in their fine details: the returned eaves, ornamented friezes and end boards. Some of the individual buildings vary slightly in these details; for example, the court house at Alberton has a plain frieze and has decorated capitals on the end boards, a feature the others lack. It seems the interior plan in all cases consisted of a large courtroom on the ground floor with smaller rooms for the judge and the clerk at the rear. At Alberton and probably at Souris, circuits that did a lot of business, a basement was added containing a lock-up.

In 1878 there was considerable debate on the value of the county courts that had been erected. While it was unrecognized an immense amount of litigation was carried on at Souris and Alberton, it was obvious to all that places like Abrams Village and Murray Habour did little business.[44] While arguments were given on both sides of the question, the general public opinion was the buildings were just too expensive.

> Another cause of complaint was, that the country had been put to a great expense in building such expensive court houses, and in some cases they had also to be carpeted to accommodate their Lordships - the Judges. Under the old system, the Commissioners were glad to get into a kitchen, to hold their court, but when these long robed gentlemen were appointed, there must be carpeted Court Houses, for their honors.[45]

For these reasons of expense and flexibility, space in halls or schools continued to be rented in half the circuits of the province. Conversely, the buildings especially built as circuit courts were used like their New Brunswick and Nova Scotia counterparts, as halls for meetings and entertainment.[46] In total there were only six county court houses built, at Alberton, Abrams Village, Bonshaw, Dundas, St. Peters and Souris East. Of these, those at Bonshaw and Souris have been destroyed within the last few years.

Of the four buildings in this category that still survive, none is being used as a court house today. They are wood frame, have one main room and are classical in detail. Although roughly similar, the one at Alberton (Fig. 19) has a basement, has the finest detail and is in the best condition. The basement contains six cells and two rooms for the keeper while the high-ceilinged courtroom occupies the main floor. Substantial seats for the public took up two thirds of the courtroom, while the judge's desk and suitors' area occupied the remainder. The buildings at Abrams Village and Dundas have been moved from their original sites and the court house at St. Peters has been altered for use as a church hall.

18 Church, Union Corner, Prince Edward Island
Architect unknown. The basic details of the designs of local community halls, schools and small rural churches like this one closely resemble the standard plan adopted for small county court houses built in Prince Edward Island during the 1870s. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

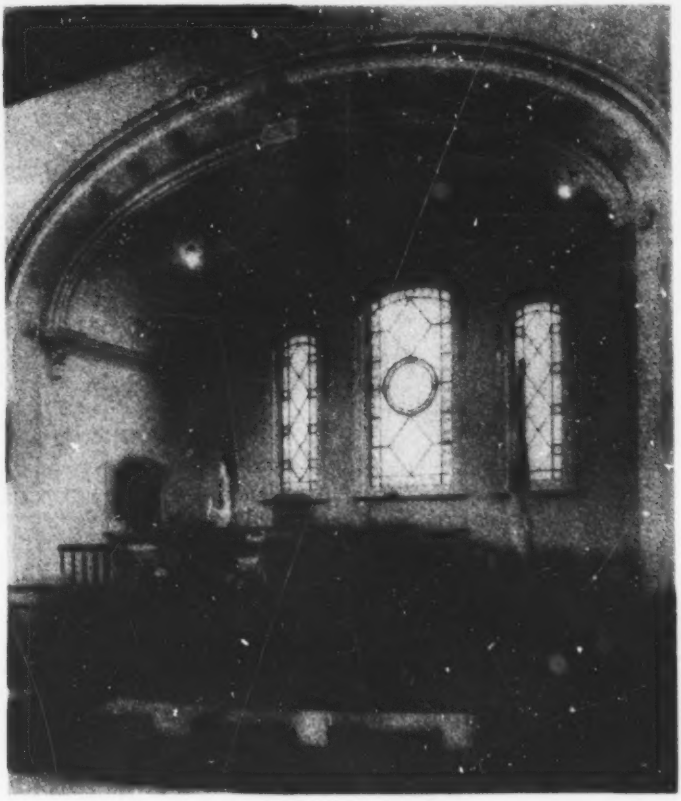
19 Alberton County Court House, Alberton, Prince Edward Island
Built 1877; Prince Edward Island provincial Department of Public Works, architect. One of a series of six buildings erected by the Prince Edward Island government according to a standard plan in the 1870s-80s, the Alberton County Court House, with a jail in the basement, is a good representative example. Other surviving examples of this type include similar buildings in St. Peters built in 1874-75 and since converted into a church hall; Dundas, erected in 1875, moved and now the Dundas Farm Museum; and Abrams Village constructed in 1876 and since moved and converted into an agricultural museum. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

Some Mid-Nineteenth Century Court Houses in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia: New Trends and Elaborate Designs

Of all the court houses in Nova Scotia, the Pictou and Halifax county court houses, both built in the mid-nineteenth century, are superlative examples of fine craftsmanship and elaborate design. Both buildings were designed by prominent professional architects and are more spacious and elaborate than their predecessors. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, David Sterling, then of Halifax, designed many prominent buildings in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, including the Pictou County Court House. The masterful carving of this court house (Fig. 20), most of which is intact, is attributed to local carpenter Peter Cormack. The building is two storeys with a medium hip-roof. Constructed of local wood with a stone foundation, it is

20 Pictou County Court House, Church Street, Pictou, Nova Scotia
Built 1856-ca. 1857; David Sterling, architect. This elaborately detailed court house was built of wood according to plans drawn by the prominent Maritime architect David Sterling. With intricate carving both on the exterior and interior of the courtroom, it ranks as one of the most elegant court houses in the Maritimes. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building; The Pridham's Studio Ltd., New Glasgow, Nova Scotia)

rectangular, symmetrical and rich in sculptural ornamentation. The front and one side of the building which face the streets have massive cornices and denticulated friezes. Above the central entrance on each street entrance is a pedimented Dutch gable, originally surmounted by a finial. Substantial pilasters with intricate Corinthian capitals divide the windows and add to the sense of height. The interior of the court house is dominated by a two-storey, profusely ornamented courtroom (Fig. 21). A wide, ornate frieze bordering the ceiling in the second storey accentuates the height of the courtroom. A spectators' gallery at the rear of the courtroom has since been enclosed. Behind the judge's bench are three tall stained glass windows with segmental arches, which were imported from England. The central window depicts a circular image of the Roman goddess of justice with a sword in her hand and a set of scales in the other. This unusual detail has been described as the finest of its kind in Canada.[47] Along the sides of the building, several court and county offices are located. A stone jail was later erected behind the court



21 Pictou County Court House

See also Figure 20. View of courtroom and judge's bench. The fine attention to detail in the two-storey courtroom, combined with the general design, the layout and the condition of the building, makes this court house unique among Canadian court houses. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building; The Pridham's Studio Ltd., New Glasgow, Nova Scotia)

22 Provincial Library (former Halifax County Court House), 5250 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Built 1858-60; William Thomas & Sons, architects. Designed by a major architectural firm from Toronto to house the Supreme Court in addition to the county court, this court house is, not surprisingly, the most elaborate one in the province. Although the wings set back on each side from the front line of the building complement the style and structure of the central portion, they are later additions. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

house. Like most court houses in the province, the Pictou County Court House has been well maintained. Except for the replacement of the original public seating and the enclosure of the gallery section to supply additional office space, it closely resembles its original state.

The former Halifax County Court House (Fig. 22) is the first court house in Nova Scotia to be constructed of fire-proof materials and large enough to accommodate all the county offices (except the jail), including the registry of deeds. Its construction heralded a new era in court house design: solid, spacious buildings a minimum of two storeys, with elaborate, heavy, masonry decorations. The Halifax County Court House, although the first of this type of structure, remains the most flamboyantly detailed of those court houses completed after the 1850s. This is not surprising, considering that it was erected in the provincial capital and that it was also designed to accommodate the Supreme Court. The plans for the building were prepared by the well-known William Thomas, who came from England to Toronto in 1840 and became one of the most prominent architects in Canada during the latter half of the nineteenth century.[48] The building was erected by George Laing, a prominent builder in Halifax during the 1850s. Constructed of sandstone like many other important public buildings in Halifax during this period,[49] it was designed in the Classical Revival mode and is three storeys. The lavish sculptural detail features the architect's trade marks: carved gargoyles and an extravagant use of vermiculation. The upper part of the building was heightened by a pediment, and a large cupola which was removed within about ten years of the completion of the building. Considering the size of

the cupola and its early removal, it was possibly too heavy for the structure beneath it. Wings have been added to both sides of the building, but they do not seriously detract from the original form. Much of the interior decoration dates from renovations done at the turn of the century. The ceilings are panelled with decorative pressed metal and an impressive staircase leads to the courtrooms in the second storey. Among the many elaborate decorations throughout the interior is a large plaster rosette in the Supreme Court Room. Currently used for the offices of the provincial library, the former Halifax County Court House has been designated a site of national historical significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

The only court house in the Maritimes known to have been constructed as a market/court house, the York County Court House is the earliest among the existing court houses in New Brunswick to be constructed of brick. In basic form the present court house (Fig. 23) resembles its predecessor, which was located on the same site and originally designed as a market with its shorter end serving as the main facade. The present building erected by 1858 represents the beginning of a general trend towards the use of brick and stone in the construction of public buildings towards the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although more expensive, brick and stone were preferable to wood in terms of fire safety, durability and in their ability to create a monumentality through greater size and more complex ornamentation. Improved transportation, increased brick manufacture and the opening up of quarries in the second half of the nineteenth century facilitated the use and conveyance of these materials which began to replace the locally abundant and inexpensive wood.

23 York County Court House, 635 Queen Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Built 1855-57 or 1858; Robert Gowan (?), architect. This is the only court house in the Maritimes known to have been constructed as a market and court house and still standing. The incompatibility between the two functions as well as the need for more space for the county offices eventually led to the removal of the market. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

Court Houses in the Maritime Provinces: Post-1850s to 1941

Much larger than their predecessors, almost all of the court houses constructed after the 1850s in the Maritime provinces were able to centralize the county offices, except the small court houses for the county courts in Prince Edward Island. Before the market was removed from the York County Court House, for instance, the offices of the clerk of the peace, the county registrar, auditor, county treasurer and the recorder had been scattered throughout the city, an extremely inconvenient and time-consuming situation. Those with county business to transact had to "plod from one end of the City to the other."[50] In 1882 the court house underwent major interior renovations resulting in the reduction of the market facilities and the addition of six new offices, including the registry of deeds.

Only five court houses built in New Brunswick during this period have survived: those serving Albert, Victoria, Gloucester, Northumberland and Kings counties. Since the act of 1834 for the safe-keeping of county records had stipulated that registry offices must be built of brick or stone, the registry of deeds, wills, etc., could only be incorporated into those structures constructed of fire-proof materials. Consequently, the few New Brunswick court houses constructed of wood after 1850, although spacious, did not accommodate the registry of deeds, which remained in detached fire-proof buildings nearby. Both the Victoria (Fig. 24) and Albert (Fig. 25) county court houses built of wood in 1877-78 and 1903-5, respectively, are cases in point. On

24 Victoria County Court House, 574 Main Street, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick
Built 1877-78; J.G. Fletcher, architect. Built to house the county court, offices and jail, this building is unusual among New Brunswick court houses erected during this period in that its main construction material was highly flammable wood. It has been well maintained and is in excellent condition. (Photo by Ellsworth DeMerchant)

25 Old Albert County Court House, R.R. # 1, Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick
Built 1904-5; W.E. Reid, architect. Designed by a professional architect to resemble its predecessor, the Hopewell Cape court house has unusual, broad window and door surrounds. The courtroom extends up to the roof, the rafter beams of which are interlocked like the hull of a ship, shipbuilding style. No longer used for a court house, the building has been restored and now functions as a museum. (Mary Peck, Historical Resources Administration, Fredericton, New Brunswick)

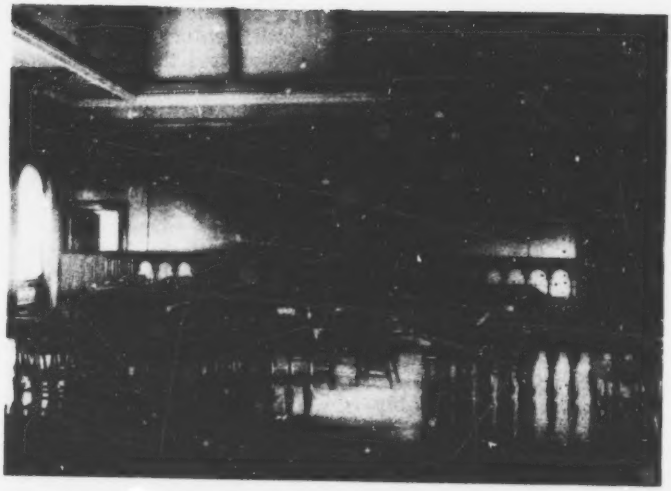
the other hand, the present Gloucester and Northumberland county court houses, both constructed of stone at the turn of the century, and the Kings County Court House in Hampton (Fig. 26), a brick building erected in 1870-72, all contained the registry of deeds and most of the other county offices. Three of the main reasons for the size and quality of these structures were the growing prosperity of the communities, the accessibility of materials and more sophisticated construction methods. The earlier court houses of these counties had become inadequate for the demands of their expanding populations, unlike such counties as Charlotte and Queens whose court houses were still adequate for their small populations.

Figure 27 is an excellent and rare, early photograph of the courtroom of the Kings County Court House in Hampton, estimated to have been taken around 1900. It shows the classic features of the traditional courtroom. The ceiling is high, the impression of height emphasized by the presence of a deep cove, supported by heavy brackets, around the central section of the ceiling. The skyward, heightening feature aptly corresponds with the inscription on the roof dormer outside the building: *Fiat Justitia Ruat Caelum* ("Let Right be Done, though the Heavens Should Fall"). The Colchester County Court House in Truro, Nova Scotia, built in 1903-4 has a similar ceiling with a skylight at the centre. The subdivision of the courtroom of the Hampton court house is accomplished by railings with carved wooden balustrades. One railing extending across almost the full width of the courtroom segregates the area occupied by the judge's bench from the business of the court which takes place in the middle section. In the foreground of the view of the courtroom, rows of seats for the public are separated by another railing. The prisoner's dock, surrounded on all four sides by another carved railing, was at that time conspicuously placed in front of the public.

At least two storeys (one storey with mezzanine in the case of the Albert County Court House), the designs of the later court houses incorporated masonry ornamentation more elaborate than their wooden predecessors, as well as an increased number of classical motifs, or symbols, for example, large pillars and broad arches, sculptural leaves and inscriptions. Like the earlier buildings, these court houses were symmetrical and solid in appearance. Corridors extending the lengths of the buildings connected the various county offices, and their courtrooms were located in the upper storeys, isolated from the business of the county offices below. One exception is the former Albert County Court House in Hopewell Cape, whose mezzanine storey contains a balcony and several small county offices, while the courtroom dominates the ground floor. Although built at the turn of the century, the Hopewell Cape court house resembles more the simple mid-nineteenth century court house than its contemporaries. This is attributable to the facts that the new building was intended to imitate the design of its predecessor and that funds were limited. The (former) Albert and Victoria county court houses are both superior examples of preservation, the former because of a conscious restoration and the latter because of excellent, continued maintenance (Fig. 28, interior view). The Kings County Court House is also in good condition and represents well the type of fire-proof building in New Brunswick that centralized the county offices.

Most of the larger court houses constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century in both provinces were designed by professional architects. Many of the

26 Kings County Court House, Main Road, Hampton, New Brunswick
Built 1870-72; J.T.C. McKean, architect. This building is typical of court houses built in the Maritime provinces in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By the 1870s, most county court houses accommodated the county municipal offices, the registry office and courtroom in one solid, two-storey, fire-proof edifice. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)



27 Kings County Court House

See also Figure 26. Courtroom, ca. 1900. This rare view of a courtroom interior at the turn of the century shows the formal subdivision of the floor area and high ceiling common to court houses built in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick until well into the twentieth century. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

28 Victoria County Court House, 574 Main Street, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick

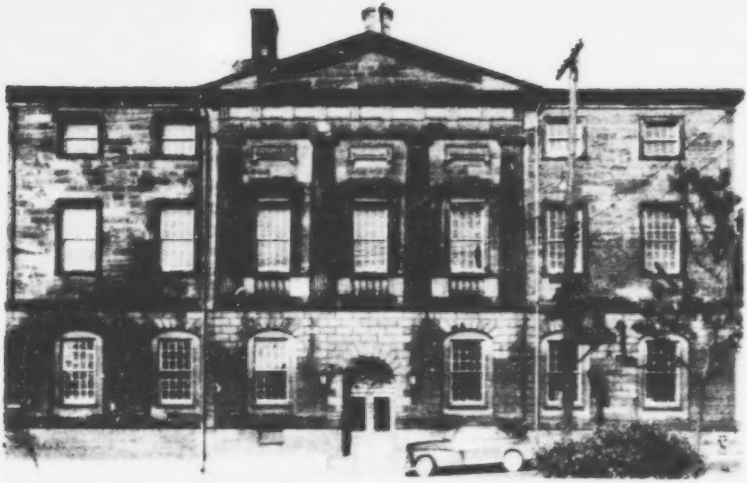
Built 1877-78; J.G. Fletcher, architect. Prisoner's box. Scrubbed, polished and waxed twice a week, the courtroom is kept in immaculate condition. Some of the original furniture has been removed, but the prisoner's box is original. Note the difference between this prisoner's box and that of the Kings County Court House (Fig. 27). (Photo by Ellsworth DeMerchant)

New Brunswick architects were based in Saint John, the largest city in the province. The Gloucester County Court House in Bathurst, for example, constructed of locally quarried granite, was designed by the prominent architect R.C. John Dunn, who had received professional training in Europe and the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. Described on his death as the best-known architect in New Brunswick,[51] Dunn was responsible for the designs of many important buildings in the province throughout the nineteenth century. F. Neil Brodie, who had trained in the United States and who also practised in Saint John, prepared the plans for the present Carleton County Court House in Woodstock in 1909. In 1870 the Kings County Court House in Hampton was designed by J.T.C. McKean, another prominent architect in Saint John during the late 1800s. Among the other professional architects who designed the more recent New Brunswick court houses was Leslie R. Fairn, of Aylesford, Nova Scotia. Fairn designed an immense number of public buildings in the Maritimes, including the county court houses in Kentville and Digby, Nova Scotia. The Northumberland County Court House in Newcastle, New Brunswick, constructed of locally quarried sandstone, was designed by Fairn according to the pattern of the Digby County Court House. The plans for the wooden court house for Albert County at Hopewell Cape, constructed in 1903-5, were prepared by W. Reid, then living at Riverside and formerly of the architectural firm of Reid Brothers, San Francisco.

Among the brick or stone court houses in all three provinces, the present St. John County Court House (Fig. 29) occupies a unique place. It is the only extant court house constructed before the 1850s of stone, reputed to have been imported from England. In fact, it also has the distinction of being one of the oldest court houses standing in the province. While it is chronologically an early structure, the St. John County Court House is more typical of the larger mid-nineteenth century buildings in terms of its fire-proof building material, the separation of the courts and offices from the jail facilities, and its sophisticated design. Designed by the well-known John Cunningham, from Scotland, and built by Robert Barbour, a Scottish stonemason, it is representative of the British administrative type of building constructed in the early nineteenth century, for example, the Old Arts Building and the Old Government House, both built in Fredericton during the 1820s. A special decorative feature of this court house is its rare, free-standing spiral staircase (Fig. 30). In 1977 the St. John County Court House was commemorated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a historic site of national significance.

Of those court houses constructed in Nova Scotia between 1860 and 1914, seven are still standing. Most of them were designed by professional architects and show the influence of the widespread Romanesque and Second Empire trends. One of the earliest of this type, the Cumberland County Court House (whose architect is unknown), was constructed in 1888-89 of local sandstone. Many public buildings in Amherst as well as other parts of the Maritimes and central Canada are constructed of this stone. It was built to replace a smaller wooden court house which had burned. In common with other brick and stone court houses of the late 1800s, the sense of weight and solidity of this court house is emphasized by the breadth of the roof, the depth of the window reveals, the string coursing, and the broad, arched main entrance supported by engaged columns. The offices of the registry of deeds, the registrar of probate, the sheriff and prothonotary and the tax office are located on the ground floor. In the second storey are the courtroom, the office of the municipal clerk-treasurer, a barrister's room, the judge's robing room, witness rooms and several meeting rooms. As a result of recent renovations, the interior of the building retains little of its original detail, but the facade had undergone few changes.

The plans for both the Kings and Digby county court houses in Nova Scotia were prepared by Leslie R. Fairn who was the founder of one of the most prominent architectural firms in the Maritimes.[52] A reflection of the increasing eclecticism of the time, the Kings County Court House was built in 1903 and the Digby County Court House (Fig. 31) was constructed in 1908-10. In both structures, their plain red brick surfaces are relieved by stringcourses, hood moulds and sills of contrasting stone. Both buildings have similar prominent, wide Romanesque entrances. With its irregular roofline and the towers at its corners, the



29 St. John County Court House, Sydney Street, Saint John, New Brunswick
Built 1826–29; John Cunningham, architect. The design of this building is similar to that of other British administrative buildings erected in the early nineteenth century in Canada. Several early, important buildings in the city, including the turrets of St. John's Episcopal Stone Church and some residences, were designed and built by the Scottish builder. It is speculated that the stone for the court house was brought from England as ship's ballast. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

30 St. John County Court House
See also Figure 29. This rare, free-standing spiral staircase was constructed with forty-nine blocks of stone, one for each step, and interlocked so as to require no central support. It is the only free-standing, spiral stone staircase built in the early nineteenth century known to exist in Canada. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

Digby County Court House is more elaborate than the earlier Kings County Court House. Of the two, the court house at Digby has been better preserved than the building in Kentville which has undergone considerable renovations in the interior. Unlike the court houses they replaced, both buildings were sufficiently large to accommodate the registry of deeds and most of the other county offices as well as courtroom facilities.

Another example of similar design is the Colchester County Court House at Truro constructed in 1903-4 according to plans prepared by the major Nova Scotia architect J.C Dumaresq; probably the most outstanding of the many buildings designed by Dumaresq in the Maritimes is the Legislative Building in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Colchester County Court House is constructed of brick, with a granite foundation and contrasting sandstone trimmings. The main entrance is emphasized by a high brick pediment supported by pairs of tall Greek Ionic pillars on either side of the doorway, lending an air of dignity to the court house. All of the important county offices were located in the new building, including that of the registrar of deeds. The spacious courtroom dominates the second storey and is two storeys high, with a cove ceiling formed with decorative pressed metal. A skylight illuminates the room. Subsequent renovations to the building included the replacement of the original courtroom furniture.

The two Lunenburg County court houses, constructed in the early 1890s, were designed

31 Digby County Court House, Queen Street, Digby, Nova Scotia
Built 1908-10; Leslie R. Fairn, architect. Designed by the well-known architect Leslie R. Fairn, the Digby County Court House is typical of early twentieth century court house architecture and interior arrangement in the East and in other parts of Canada. It is solid, fire-proof and accommodated all the municipal offices in one structure. It was used as a model for Fairn's design for the Northumberland County Court House in Newcastle, New Brunswick, constructed in 1912-13. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

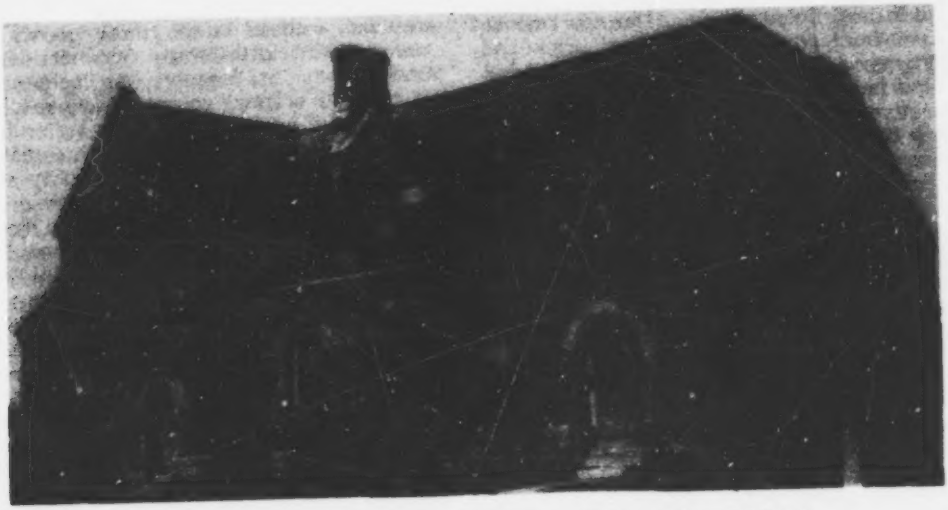
in the Second Empire style. The court house at Lunenburg was constructed of brick and sandstone, with the brick forming the general wall surface and the sandstone providing a decorative element, as in the Digby and Kings county court houses. Financed by the town as well as the county, this court house contained not only the county offices but the offices of the town and municipality. The registry of deeds, formerly in a separate building, was removed to the wooden court house at Bridgewater. While it would have been logical to keep the county records in a fire-proof building, the fact that they were kept in Bridgewater was likely determined by the results of a bitter rivalry between the two communities, each of which insisted on having the county court house. However, in the 1960s the registry of deeds was removed from the wooden court house and placed in a fire-proof building in Bridgewater. Both court houses afforded considerably more room than the earlier court house at Lunenburg. For convenient access, the county and town offices in both buildings were located on the lower floors, while the courtrooms and related offices were placed above. Although the exterior of the buildings are well maintained and have undergone few changes, the interiors have been considerably altered.

Although almost every other court house surviving in all three provinces follows a symmetrical pattern, the Victoria County Court House, at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, constructed in 1889-90, is the exception. It is the only court house existing in Nova Scotia built before 1914 and constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century that contained a jail. A sense of weight and massiveness is achieved through the use of rusticated granite with deeply inset windows in the lower storey. This floor contained the jail and the jailer's quarters. The upper storey, which contains the courtroom and county offices, is constructed of wood and features several decorative details drawing attention to the upper part of the structure. The interior of the building has been extensively altered and in 1967 a wing was added to the left side of the building. In terms of materials and style, an attempt was made to match the new wing to the rest of the building.

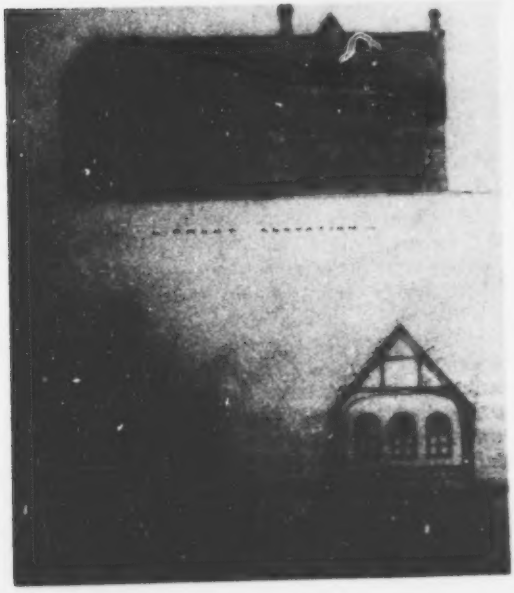
In Prince Edward Island, only three larger scale court houses built before 1914 have survived - those in the three county shiretowns, Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown. St. Eleanors was the site of one of the two original county courts established in 1833, but was not designated a circuit town in Prince County. For some time plans had been underfoot to move the county seat to Summerside and in 1873 an act was passed authorizing the building of a court house at Summerside.[53] This new court house, like its counterparts at Charlottetown and Georgetown, was to assume a special function: it was to hold sittings of both the county court and the Supreme Court which still went on circuit; for this reason the Summerside County Court House was large and constructed of brick.

Like the Charlottetown court house it contained offices of the sheriff, land department, county clerk, etc., on the first floor and the courtroom above. However, unlike the Charlottetown building, it included a jail, a cause of some distress to the inhabitants of Summerside. Both buildings were prominently situated, but it is noteworthy that neither exhibits a particular court house style and both are similar to other works designed by their respective architects.

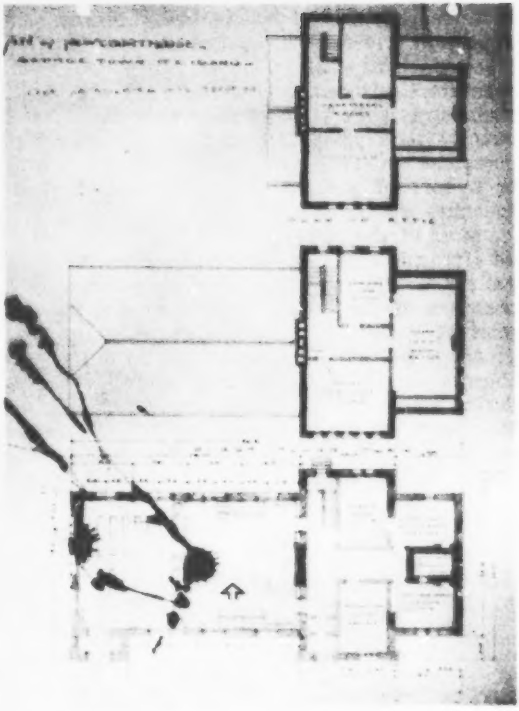
Georgetown was ignored in the 1870s and had to make do with its earlier court house until the following decade, partly because it did not develop at the rate of the other centres. In fact, even in its own county it was being surpassed by Souris. In 1887, however, a new edifice was constructed to provide better facilities for the county and Supreme courts. Although smaller than its counterparts in Summerside and Charlottetown, it is of pleasing design and substantially built of stone (Fig. 32). It is also prominently situated in the town and dominates all Georgetown's other architecture. This is in contrast to the two other major judicial centres where the court houses are surpassed in grandeur by other buildings - government, commercial and ecclesiastic. Designed by the well-known William Critchlaw Harris, the Georgetown building does not have the bilateral symmetry traditional among eastern court houses erected well into the twentieth century. In fact, its design is as much or more indicative of Harris' architectural style than actual court house design in the area.[54] The two-storey courtroom, however, does conform to the general practice of making it the focal point



32 Georgetown Court House, Georgetown, Prince Edward Island
Built 1887; W.C. Harris, architect. In Prince Edward Island, a court house housing both the Supreme and county courts is located in each of the three county shiretowns. The Georgetown Court House is the smallest but least renovated of the three and has possibly the most interesting design. With its clipped gable and asymmetrical massing, this building is in some ways more indicative of the architect's style than any local principle of court house design. (Public Archives of Nova Scotia)



33 Georgetown Court House
See also Figure 32. Original longitudinal section of Georgetown Court House drawn by W.C. Harris. Note that the plans were reversed when the building was erected. (Keith Pickard)



34 Georgetown Court House
See also Figure 32. Original plan of Georgetown Court House drawn by W.C. Harris. Note placement of courtroom (arrow). (Keith Pickard)

of the interior layout (Figs 33 and 34). The Georgetown Court House was not originally designed with a jail but one was added in this century.

Role of the Court House in Community Life in the Maritime Provinces

The role of the county or district court house as a community focal point for the dispersal of information and entertainment in the Maritimes, particularly in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, cannot be underestimated. In the early nineteenth century especially, the court house function was not confined to matters of a predominantly legal administrative nature, as it tends to be today. At the turn of the twentieth century, municipal halls, parish halls, theatres, school auditoria and town and city halls began to replace the court house as a community centre, but in the early nineteenth century it was usually the only civic building of sufficient size and importance to accommodate large local gatherings. Its prominent site, which gave it the maximum accessibility and visibility among all the other buildings in the community, was especially accommodating for this purpose. Public lectures, dances, military drills, bible and temperance meetings were commonly held in the early nineteenth century court house. Thomas Haliburton remarked in 1849 that the county court sessions

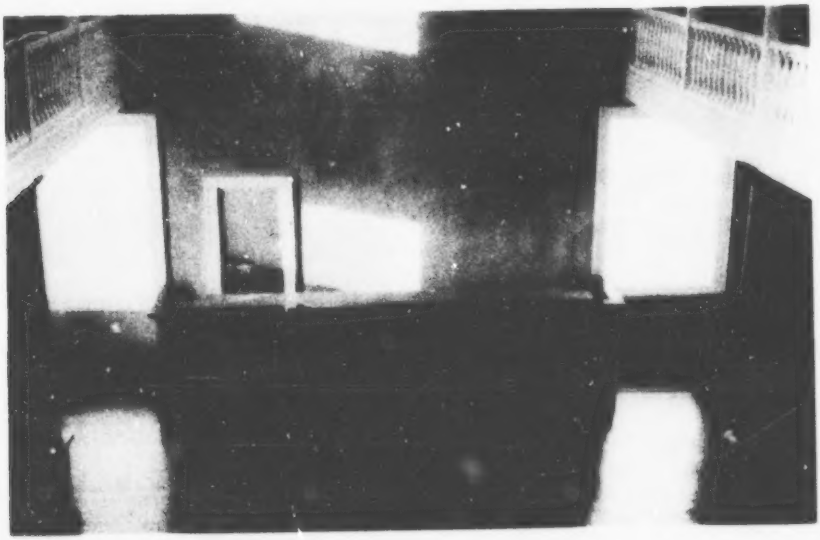
> ... were the centre of attraction to the whole county. The vicinity of the old court house was a sort of fair, where people assembled to transact business, or to amuse themselves. Horse-swapping or racing, wrestling and boxing, smoking and drinking, sales or auctions, and games of various kinds, occupied the noisy and not very sober crowd.[55]

The variety of activities that took place in

these early court houses, which served as important civic centres, necessitated sufficient space to accommodate large numbers of spectators. Since most of the early buildings themselves were small, public assemblies frequently took place outdoors, with the main porticoed entrance serving as the focal point or a sort of platform from which political speeches and the like were delivered.

Most of the larger court houses constructed after the 1850s incorporated the spectators' gallery, as did some of the earlier ones. The presence of the gallery emphasizes the public interest in the court house and the trials and other activities that took place there as sources of information and entertainment during a period when public communication, in the form of newspapers, radio, etc., was extremely limited. Of those New Brunswick court houses erected after the 1850s, the old Carleton County Court House enlarged in 1865-66; the former Albert County Court House constructed in 1903-5; and the present county court houses of Northumberland (1912-13), Carleton (1909) and Victoria (1877-79) counties all contained balconies, unlike many of the smaller early buildings (Fig. 35, for example). Both the St. John County Court House constructed in 1826-29 and the Queens County Court House in New Brunswick built in 1836-37 also contained spectators' balconies (since enclosed).

The court houses in Guysborough, Sherbrooke and Antigonish, Nova Scotia, are among the earlier buildings in that province that also included the gallery feature to accommodate the public who attended trials of special interest. Among the later buildings that had galleries are those at Truro, Pictou and Digby. As urban centres grew and became



35 Old Carleton County Court House, Court Street, Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick Built 1833-34; architect unknown. View of the judge's bench from balcony, 1975. Balconies were a major feature of many nineteenth century court houses in the East. Their presence emphasizes the public interest in the activities, legal, cultural or social, taking place in such buildings. When modern communications technology is compared to that of the nineteenth century, the necessity for these various gatherings, the need to assemble and directly experience or observe local activities, gains greater significance. (Carleton County Historical Society)

36 Colchester County Court House, Court Street, Truro, Nova Scotia
Built ca. 1845 (no longer standing); architect unknown. Reception at the former Colchester County Court House, 1894, on the occasion of the visit of the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen to Truro, Nova Scotia. (Original owned by the Colchester Historical Society)

more densely populated, the court house grounds often became limited and more activities were held within the larger buildings. The balcony became a useful feature under these circumstances.

Throughout their history to the turn of the twentieth century, the county or district court houses in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia served as the major civic building in the county. The scene of a wide variety of entertainment, for example, coronation celebrations, fairs, political debates, voting, county and municipal council deliberations, the history of the county court house in this area and its related activities is in many respects a diary of the county or district it served. In Amherst, Nova Scotia, for example, crowds gathered on the spacious court house grounds in the 1840s to watch political debates delivered from a platform on the eastern side of the building. Here, politicians debated before crowds "influenced by the rhetoric of the speakers and the unstinted distribution of rum....blood flowed and many hard blows were given and taken."[56]

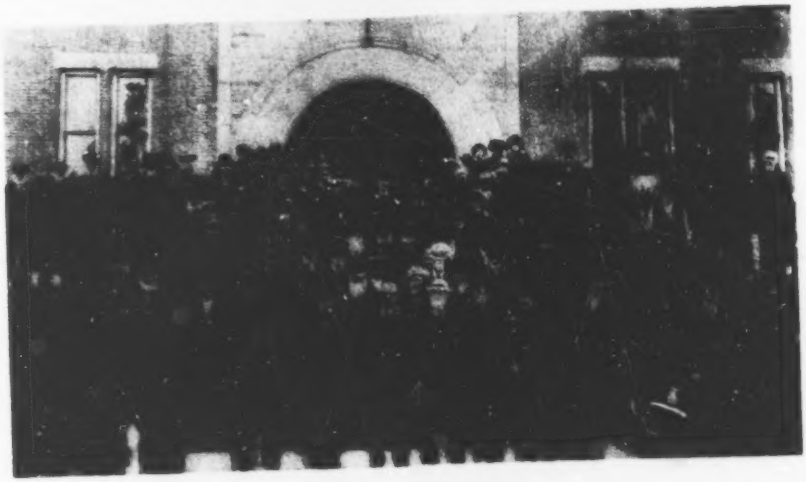
Trials themselves were frequently the objects of intense community interest. One writer described them as being "as good as a play."[57] Much of the formal dignity expressed in the architectural design of the court house was reflected in the elaborate ceremonies frequently accompanying the early trials. In Kings County, Nova Scotia, when an interesting case was being tried, men from all over the county drove to the shiretown in the early morning, "and all day remain spell-bound in the stifling courtroom, listening to the evidence as the various witnesses were called."[58] During the Supreme Court trials in Kentville, after the Kentville hotel was opened, the Supreme Court justice would issue from the hotel, with the sheriff walking ahead and various members of the bar in attendance, and proceed formally on foot to the court house. If the county had no criminal cases for trial, it was customary for the barristers of the county to present the presiding judge with a pair of white kid gloves.[59]

Other uses of the court house in this area during the nineteenth century included

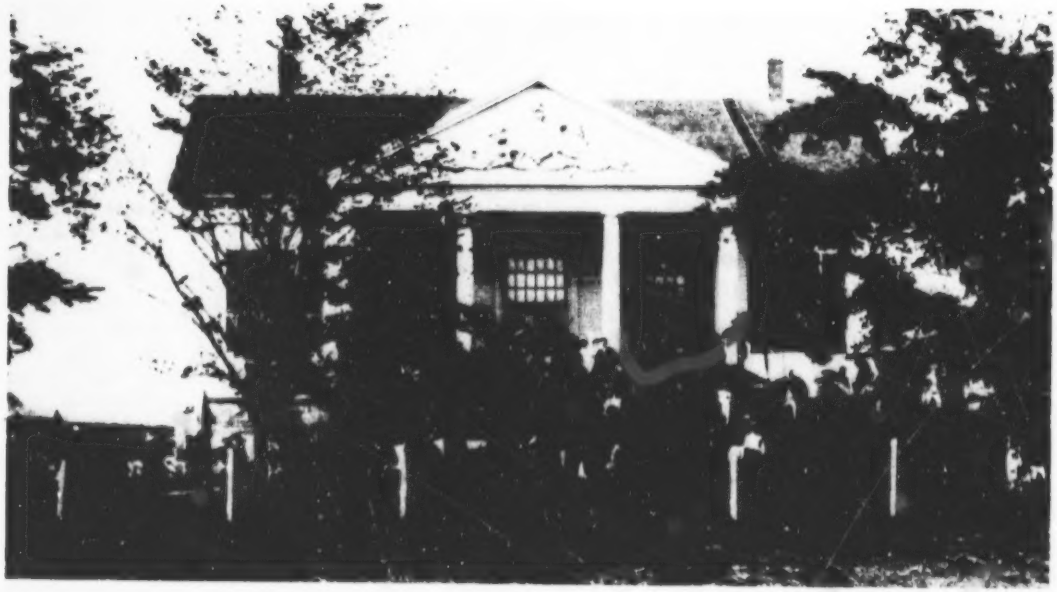
agricultural fairs with exhibits displayed in the actual court house and the animals and booths outside, elections, miners' conventions, signing up for World War I and II, welcoming ceremonies for returning soldiers, councillors' balls, coronation celebrations, jubilees, and receptions for royal visitors (Figs 36-38). At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Richmond County Court House at Arichat, Nova Scotia, was used as a theatre for popular vaudeville shows and dramas.

Even in the early 1900s, the county court house retained its importance as a symbol of community pride and prosperity. The Digby County Court House, completed by 1910, is an excellent example. Described as "undoubtedly the most expensive project the municipality has ever undertaken,"[60] its corner-stone laying ceremony was attended by five Masonic lodges as well as Grand Lodge officers from all over the province. Shortly after its completion, the court house served as the background for a reunion of volunteers to combat the Fenian raids.

The survival rate of this building type or its conversion to other uses, due to fire hazard or replacement by a more modern building befitting the current function of the courts and its associated offices, is low. On 20 July 1979, for example, during preparation of this report, the old wooden Sunbury County Court House in Burton, New Brunswick, burned down after 145 years of continuous service. The loss of the Burton court house reduced the total number of extant county court houses in New Brunswick to twelve. Of the nineteen pre-1930 court houses surviving in Nova Scotia, the oldest court house in Cape Breton, in Sydney, has served as a private residence throughout the twentieth century, and the old Pictou court house/jail built in 1813 served as the court house only until the erection of the present building in 1856-57. Since then, it has undergone extensive interior renovations to accommodate its various subsequent uses. The oldest among the extant examples of the building type in the whole country, the Argyle District Court House in Tusket, Nova Scotia, has an uncertain future at the time of writing. No longer used for its original purpose, as a result of population shifts and subsequent administrative reorganization, it is now



37 Digby County Court House, Queen Street, Digby, Nova Scotia
Built 1908-10; Leslie R. Fairn, architect. The court house (ca. 1910, shortly after its construction) serves as a backdrop for a group photograph taken at a reunion of volunteers to combat the threatened Fenian raids of the mid-1860s. (Original owned by Lester Trask family, Digby, Nova Scotia)



38 Charlotte County Court House, 123A Frederick Street, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
Built 1839-40; building committee (appointed by grand jury) and builder, source of design. Reception for Sir John A. MacDonald at the Charlotte County Court House, St. Andrews, New Brunswick. (The New Brunswick Museum)

vacant. The challenge of converting such a building with its highly specialized functional combination of court house and jail to some other use poses a problem yet to be solved. The Guysborough District Court House, on the other hand, was converted to a museum. As a result of Prince Edward Island's recentralization trend in recent years, none of the small county court houses erected in such communities as Alberton and Dundas is used as a court house today, although those in the three county seats continue to accommodate the Supreme Court in circuit. Among the small county court houses, both the Abrams Village and Dundas buildings have been converted into agricultural museums and the old St. Peters County Court House currently functions as a church hall.

In some counties and districts, recently erected municipal administration centres have replaced the court houses, or at least provide additional accommodations demanded by the growing administrative needs of the county and the municipality. Unlike that of the traditional court house, the architecture of these new structures tends to emphasize function and expediency over the traditional nineteenth century aesthetic. Those court houses of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries still standing in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia better represent their symbolic function, as well as the historic origins and aspirations of the communities they served. In this regard, they survive as important monuments to the history and character of their communities, as well as to the craftsmen who built them and the architects or builders who designed them.

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF QUEBEC

André Giroux

The first court houses of Quebec were not built until the beginning of the nineteenth century, after the Judicature Act of 1793 was passed. This act divided Lower Canada into judicial districts. It created new courts of law, divided into higher and lower courts, and court houses had to be built to accommodate them.

The higher courts had jurisdiction in criminal matters and important civil cases and were composed of the Court of King's Bench. They had jurisdiction within a territory called a district, which comprised several counties.[1] The district constituted an administrative division, and a court house and a jail were to be built at the town designated the county seat.

The lower courts were divided into a circuit court, a magistrate's court and a commissioner's court, and dealt with less important civil cases. The circuit court was the main lower court. Civil cases involving no more than forty dollars were settled there, along with matters relating to school taxes and money owing to the church.[2] These courts could sit in any public building, such as an inn or a presbytery.

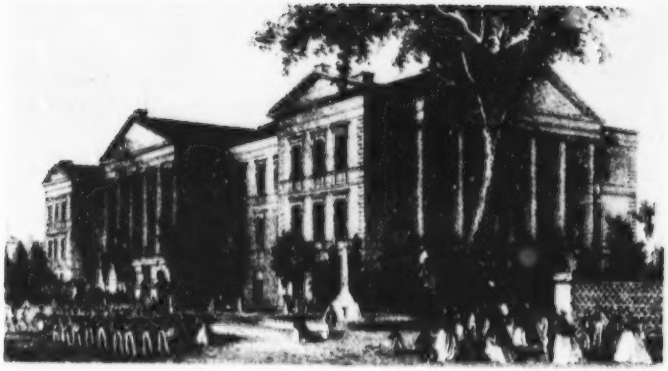
To accommodate the new courts established under the act of 1793, the government authorities, in 1799, approved funds to build the first court houses at Montreal and Quebec City. Each building was to house the numerous courts of law established in 1793. The adoption of trial by jury necessitated spacious courtrooms. Rooms for the judges, lawyers and jury members were also necessary.

The first two court houses were spacious buildings. The one in Quebec City was 120 by 87 feet and had two storeys.[3] In both buildings, the courtrooms were located on the second floor, leaving the ground floor for various judicial services. This arrangement followed the architectural tradition established during the eighteenth century in the American colonies.[4] Lieutenant William Hall drew up the plans for the court house at Quebec City.[5] At the time, military engineers, who also received some training in architecture, were frequently called upon because professional architects were scarce. Apparently, master building contractor Daveluy had the court house in Montreal built, but did not design the plans. The classically inspired details of this building (Fig. 1), the recessed windows, the pilasters and pediment, are clearly signs of British architectural influence. The chief aim of the construction of these two buildings was to honour the government of His Majesty George III,[6] and an English-speaking architect, probably in the army, was undoubtedly called upon to do the plans.

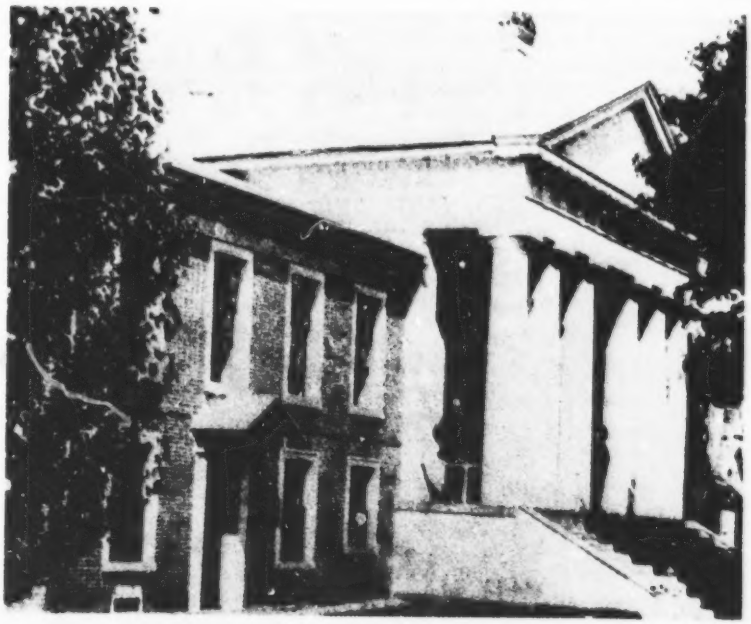
As early as 1818, in view of the problems caused by the remoteness of the Gaspé region, populated largely by Loyalists, the government authorities decided to establish a subdistrict there and to construct judicial buildings. Because of the size of this territory, the government chose two seats, Percé and New Carlisle, the most central towns.[7] The population of the region was sparse and therefore the judicial services comprised mainly lower courts. The courtroom and the jail were to be in the same building, the jail located on the ground floor. This arrangement was economical and widely used in Upper Canada at the time.[8]

Three local commissioners assumed responsibility for building the district court houses and, as a result, they display striking differences. At Percé, the purchase of a private residence was considered adequate, while at New Carlisle the commissioners had a two-storey building constructed, forty-eight by thirty-two feet on a four-acre site.[9]

In 1823 the subdistrict of St-François was established to meet the needs of Loyalists living in the Eastern Townships. The government authorities approved funds for a law court and a jail and it was decided to build the court house and jail separately. Since it was difficult to acquire stone and brick, the commissioners had the building constructed of wood. It fell into disrepair[10] and in 1833 the government ordered a new court house built at Sherbrooke. The commissioners entrusted the architect William Footner with the design. In



1 First Court House in Montreal
Built 1800-1813; architect unknown; burned down 1844. (University of Montreal, photo by J. Recasens)



2 Sherbrooke Court House
Built 1839-41; William Footner, architect; Footner also designed the Bonsecours Market. This court house clearly demonstrates the importance of the classical tradition in the architectural development of the court house. Note the similarities between this building and the court house in Brome County (Fig. 13). (Eastern Townships Historical Society)

a preliminary report, John Ostell noted several necessary changes to the plans to make the building more functional. Footner made considerable changes in his original plans and construction began between 1839 and 1841.

This brick building was two storeys with the courtroom on the second floor. With columns, pediment and portico resembling a Greek temple (Fig. 2), it was inspired by the same classical tradition as the first Montreal court house.

Despite the changes imposed by Ostell, the government would have preferred a more functional and less costly building.[11] To eliminate the arbitrariness of having three commissioners designated to supervise the construction of public buildings, the Board of Works was established in 1839. To avoid further expenses and building defects, this body could make certain recommendations on public works. It was the forerunner of the modern departments of public works.

The problems arising with the plans for the Sherbrooke court house led the government to modify the procedure for the construction of public buildings - a competition open to all architects would be held to choose the best plans. Following the burning of the Montreal court house in 1844, architects Ostell and Perrault won the competition for a new court house. The Bar managed to have the original design changed, demanding the building decoration be altered by the addition of "a portico like the one on the Bank of Montreal, by John Wells, or like the one on the Eglise Notre Dame, by O'Donnell"[12] (translation).

The second court house in Montreal (Fig. 3), built between 1851 and 1857, was 295 by 106 feet and had two storeys in addition to a basement. The main entrance boasted an immense raised portico on hewn stone arches, surmounted by a pediment resting on six columns in front and as many pilasters behind. The new building preserved the classical appearance of the other court houses and public buildings of British origin, as the architect Jean-Claude Marsan points out: " ... it falls into the tradition of British classicism, like the Province Houses (1811-1819) of Halifax, and Osgoode Hall (1829) of Toronto"[13] (translation). Thus, seeking a similar appearance for the court houses helped perpetuate the same institutional image throughout the colonies of British North America.

The changes made in the original plans of architects Ostell and Perrault resulted in numerous delays and excessive costs.[14] Therefore an architectural competition did not bring about the expected results. Furthermore, a second building had to be constructed a few years later (Fig. 4).

Meanwhile, the creation of two new judicial districts, Ottawa and Kamouraska, meant that court houses and jails were required there. At Kamouraska, for political reasons, the government purchased the residence of the Honourable Jean Taché and made the alterations necessary for the administration of justice. At Aylmer, the seat of the Ottawa District, the authorities decided to have specially designed buildings constructed.

The Ottawa District served a smaller population than the Montreal and Quebec districts[15] and so it was decided to house the court and the jail in a single building, like at New Carlisle, resulting in considerable savings.

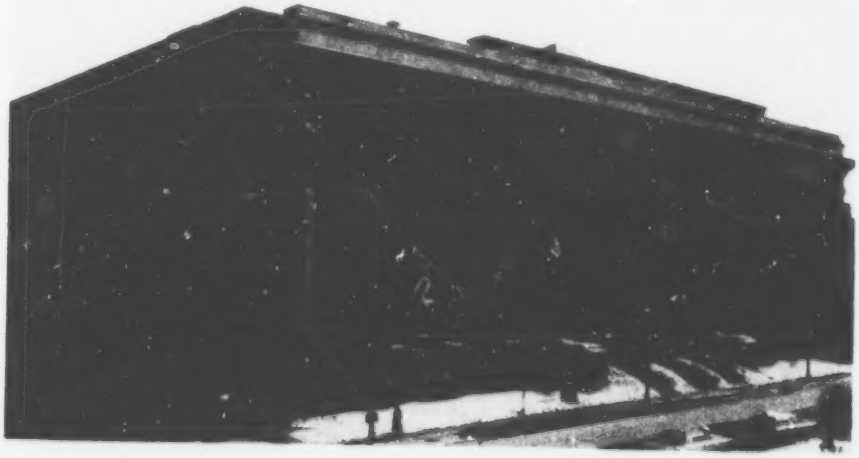
The two-storey court house constituted the main part of the building (Fig. 5). It was ninety feet long and forty-three feet wide. A wing, twenty-three by thirty feet, at the back, served as a jail.[16] With respect to space, structure and cost, the design for the Aylmer court house corresponded completely to the wishes of the Board of Works, unlike the court houses in Sherbrooke and Montreal.

During this time, there were few court houses provided for the lower courts in rural areas. Some courts had been established by Lafontaine in 1849 in an attempt to decentralize the judicial system.[17] In fact, until 1857, two county court houses had been built - at Napierville (Fig. 6) and at St-Hyacinthe.

Originally, the country court houses were used as courtrooms for the lower courts and as temporary prisons. After the Registry Act was passed in 1841,[18] these institutions also had to serve as registry offices. Having only limited judicial functions, the counties tried to construct buildings that met only these needs. As the government supplied only half the cost of construction from 1832 onward,[19] the county administrators seldom built sophisticated court houses such as those financed entirely by the government. Two-storey buildings with a courtroom on the upper floor and a jail and offices on the ground floor were sufficient. These were the characteristics of

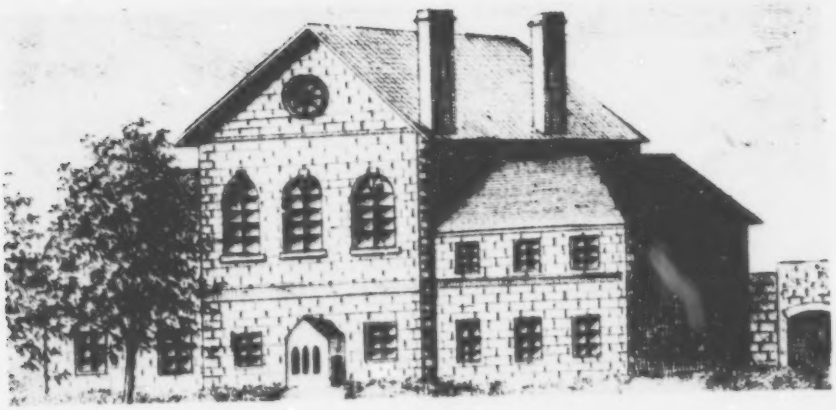
3 Old Court House in Montreal

Built 1851-57; Ostell and Perrault, architects. Classically inspired decoration is dominant in this building, as in many court houses of the period. Unfortunately, the addition of another storey has spoiled the architectural lines. Municipal offices are now located in this building. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)



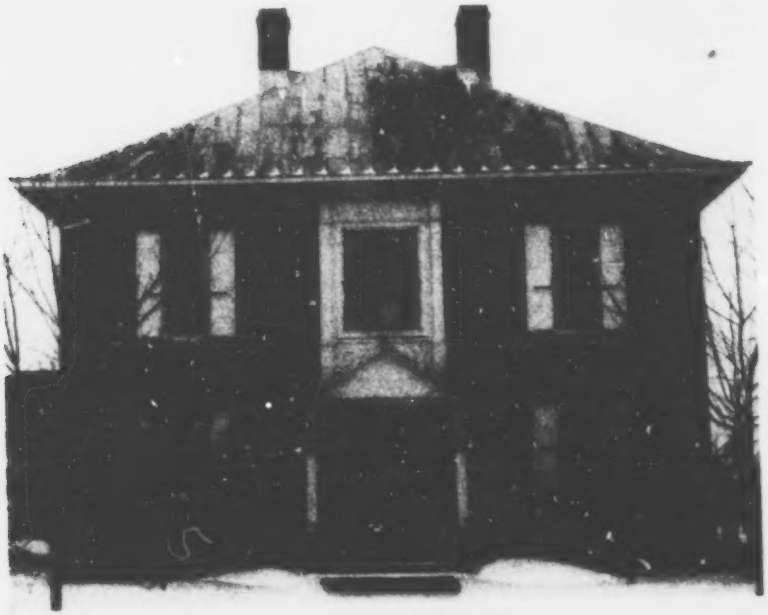
4 Facade of the Montreal Court House Annex

Built 1922-26; Charles Saxe and Ernest Cormier, architects. Ernest Cormier, who also drew the plans for the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa, designed this building as an addition to the old court house. It now houses the regional offices of the Ministère des Affaires culturelles. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)



5 First Court House in Aylmer

Built ca. 1845; architect unknown; burned down 1869. This building provided the model for the standard plan for court houses built later. (*Canadian Illustrated News* [7 Sept. 1878], p. 152)



6 Napierville Registry Office

Built 1834; Thompson and Parry, architects. Heavily damaged by government troops during the 1837 rebellion, this is the oldest county court house in Quebec. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

the court houses at Napierville and St-Hyacinthe.

The inadequate distribution of Lower Canada's judicial institutions, which continued up to the 1850s, gave rise to a complete reorganization of the administrative system. The amended Judicature Act of 1857 provided the necessary reform. This made 1857-66 the central period of the development of court houses in Quebec.

The act of 1857, prepared by George-Étienne Cartier,[20] divided Lower Canada into twenty-one judicial districts, including twelve new ones.[21] Somewhat later, the district of Chicoutimi was added. This legislation ensured legal representation to some recently colonized regions, established a balance between the immense districts of Quebec and Montreal and resulted in the decentralization of the higher courts. It was no longer necessary for a resident of Lac St-Jean to go to Quebec City to obtain justice; heavy financial losses and delays were thus avoided.

Theoretically, the lower courts were decentralized, since Lower Canada had been divided into twenty-four circuits since 1843.[22] Under the Lower Canada Municipal and Road Act passed in 1855, each county was even entitled to construct a building to serve as court house and registry office, but this was not sufficient to lead to the building of new court houses.

The act of 1857 was designed to correct this situation. First, it granted each county considerable financial assistance in building a court house and second, it provided for the construction of court houses and jails in the new districts. Thus, from 1857 to 1866, the number of district court houses rose from seven to twelve and the number of county court houses from two to over twenty-five.

The creation of these new districts therefore gave rise to the construction of several judicial institutions within a short time. A court house in which the higher and lower courts could sit was to be built in each locality. A large courtroom, chambers for the judges, lawyers and jury members, and rooms for the other judicial services (records, archives, strong-rooms) had to be provided. In addition, by law, a registry office had to be located in each district court house,[23] and this was to complicate the inside arrangements. A jail large enough to hold all prisoners, both men and women, also had to be constructed.

Aside from space factors, the Board of Works of United Canada, the agency in charge of building district court houses, also had to consider the possibility of further extensions for both the court house and the jail. For economic reasons, baths, toilets, infirmaries, chapels and workshops would be dropped, thus reducing penitentiary services to zero.[24] The same applied to decoration and exterior appearance -simplicity was the guideline. Since thirteen court houses were being built simultaneously, care had to be taken not to plunge the government into great debt. On the other hand, it was considered important to construct solid, safe buildings and so, as often as possible, they were built of stone and roofed with tin. Because of its size, the project was closely monitored by the government.

As early as 1840, for reasons of economy, the Board of Works stressed the necessity of having a standard plan for future repairs to public buildings.[25] In 1846 it requested the adoption of general principles regarding the location and appearance of future court houses. F.P. Rubidge, chief architect of the Board of Works, now the Department of Public Works, had to consider all these factors. He had witnessed the serious problems connected with the construction of the Montreal court house (1851-57). The Ottawa District Court House, however, met all the requirements sought by the Department of Public Works for small communities.

The Ottawa District provided the same judicial services entrusted to the new districts. Its district court house was designed to accommodate various offices and courtrooms, as well as the prison, and to enable the traffic of judges, prisoners, witnesses and the public to move smoothly. An extension was allowed, reducing the costs of purchasing the land and construction.

The plans for the court house at Aylmer contained the main features sought for the new districts. Since several judicial institutions, all offering the same services, had to be built quickly, the Department of Public Works adopted Aylmer as a model for the new districts of Lower Canada.

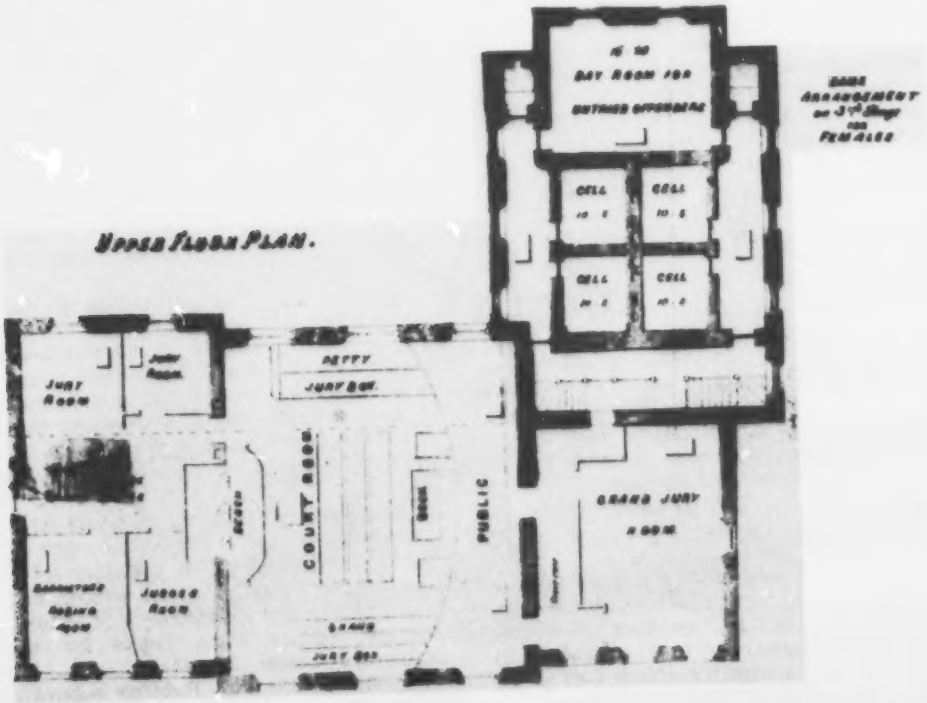
In April 1858 F.P. Rubidge submitted two series of preliminary plans to the secretary of Public Works.[26] By August 1858 the architect had completed ten pages of specifications

for the construction of judicial buildings in the new districts.[27]

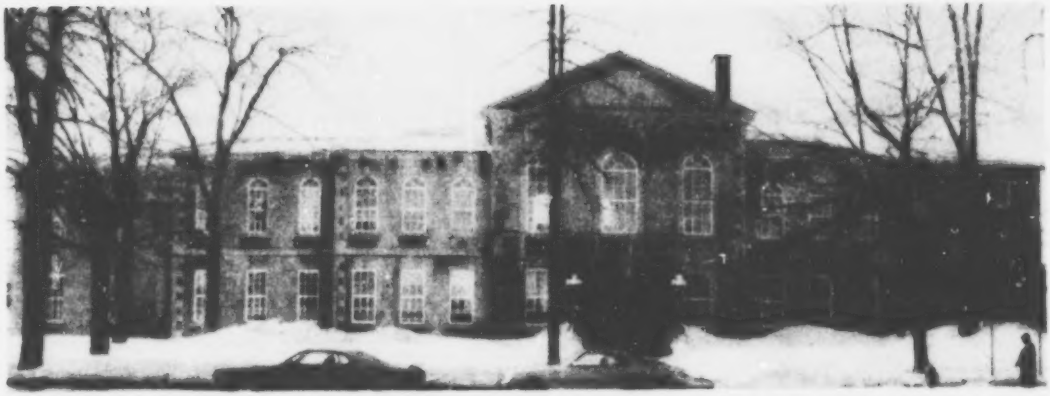
According to these plans, the court house constituted the main body of the building and was ninety by forty-five feet. The jail was located in a wing at the back right corner of the court house and was fifty-two by thirty-six feet (Fig. 7). It joined the main building at right angles. The court house had one storey above the ground floor, while the jail had two. The plans provided for the outside walls to be cut stone and the roof tin, for safety purposes. In areas where it was difficult to obtain stone, however, a brick facing could be used.[28]

The court houses in the new judicial districts (Terrebonne, Richelieu, Rimouski, Beauce, Montmagny, Arthabaska, St-Hyacinthe, Bedford, Iberville, Beauharnois, Saguenay and Chicoutimi) faithfully followed Rubidge's general plans, except for two special cases (Figs 8-10). In the sparsely populated Chicoutimi and Saguenay districts the jail wing had only one storey above the ground floor.[29] Also, because of the difficulty of obtaining stone, the district court houses at Arthabaska, Richelieu and Bedford had a brick outer wall. The interior plans consolidated on the ground floor the various judicial services and district offices. The large courtroom was located on the upper floor, with rooms reserved for the judges, lawyers and jury members along either side.[30] Part of the facade of all these buildings was projected, while a pediment formed a central gable and the main entrance was flanked by two pilasters. The well-balanced distribution of openings, the clear separation between the two storeys and the sound proportions gave the facade a sober, if not stern, appearance.

Begun in 1859, the construction of court houses in the new districts was already complete in 1862, except at Malbaie where work



7 Upper floor plan of the court house in Beauce County; built 1858; F.P. Rubidge, architect. (Ministère des Travaux publics et de l'Approvisionnement, Quebec, Plan No. 03-0348-16)



8 Joliette Court House

Built 1860-62; F.P. Rubidge, architect. This building is a good example of the standard plan promoted by the Department of Public Works, despite the additions it has undergone. In 1866 Pierre Gauvreau submitted plans and specifications for building toilets outside the building, but these changes were rejected. Several individuals in Joliette used the court house as an architectural model for their houses. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

9 St-Jean Court House

Built 1859-61; F.P. Rubidge, architect. This is another example of the standard plan designed by the Department of Public Works and used to construct thirteen court houses in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1887 the architect François-Xavier Berlinguet designed a balustrade for the bench, indicating a new decorum. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

10 Cowansville Court House
Built 1859-62; F.P. Rubidge, architect. This building is unusual because of its numerous additions provided for in Rubidge's plans. Brick was used for the court house because stone was not readily available in the area. Fieldstone was used for the jail for preventive purposes. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

continued until November 1863.[31] Construction would have advanced more quickly had the general contract not been awarded to the firm of Sinclair and Skelsey. Seeking speed and consistency, the government awarded Sinclair and Skelsey the building contract for ten court houses: Beauce, Beauharnois, Bedford, Iberville, Joliette, Montmagny, Richelieu, Saguenay, St-Hyacinthe and Terrebonne.[32] One year later, the Department of Public Works cancelled this agreement because the contractors had not met the deadlines. The government then awarded one contract for each building to new contractors. In spite of this one-year delay, the court houses were complete within four years, and building costs amounted to only $437,600.[33]

In short, by using a standard plan, the Department of Public Works had made it possible to construct these buildings in less time for less money. Government control of public works increased and proved to be effective.

The 1857 act also gave rise to the construction of numerous lower court buildings. Each local government was given twelve hundred dollars to build a court house, in keeping with the judicial decentralization begun by the government with the creation of new districts. More than twenty counties were the beneficiaries of this financial assistance between 1857 and 1866. The construction of buildings for the lower courts was entrusted to the county councils.[34] This body was made up of the mayors of each municipality within the county. It was their duty to choose a seat, find a location there for the future building, conclude the contracts required and supervise construction. In addition to providing financial aid, the government, through the Department of Public Works, approved the chosen location and reviewed the original plans submitted by the county councils.

The building was designed primarily to house the lower civil courts, namely the

circuit court and the commissioner's court. The first was the main county court. Here a judge without a jury handed down decisions. The courtroom was therefore often limited to the bench, a witness stand and a few benches, as seen in L'Isle-Verte (Fig. 11). Because the judge had to sit two to four days each time he visited,[35] the building also had to include a room for him.

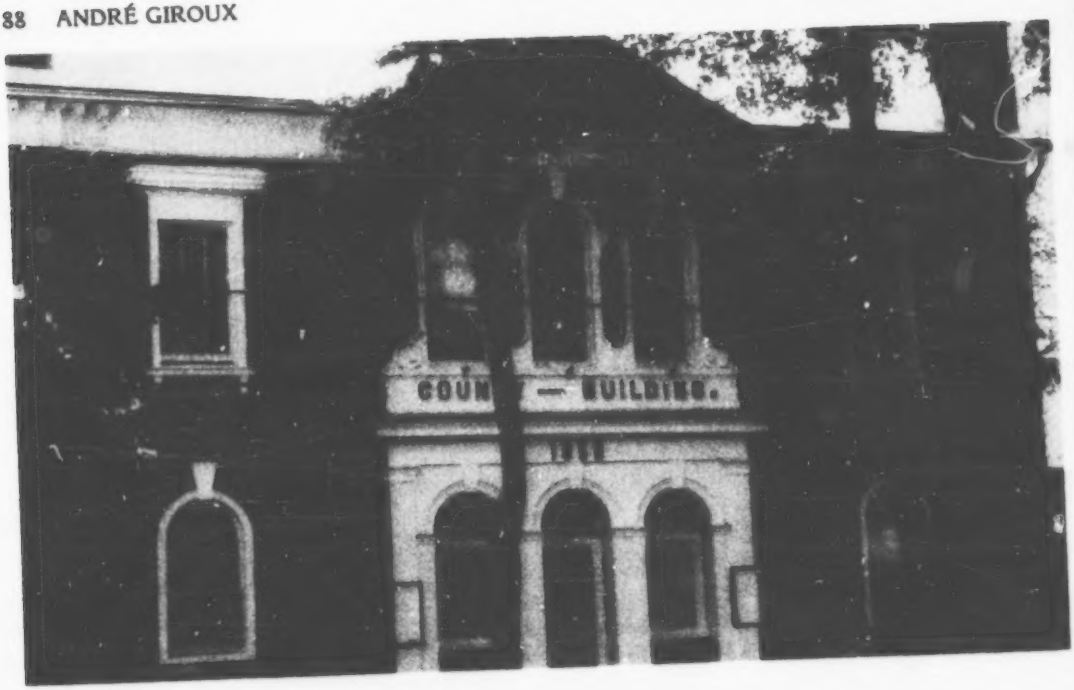
Under the Municipal Act of 1855, the county council had to build and maintain a room to serve as the registry office which could not be part of the court house. The decision to house the registry office within the court house, nevertheless, seemed the most economical and practical solution. Only an extra room and a strong-room to safeguard the documents were required, so all county judicial services could be consolidated in a single building. Finally, the court house also had to serve as office and meeting room for the county council, which met in the courtroom.

Generally, a two-storey building with a surface area totalling two thousand square feet was sufficient to provide suitable accommodation for the court, the registry office and the county council. At St-Michel-de-Bellechasse and L'Isle-Verte, the registry office was located in a separate building; the court houses therefore have only one floor.

The general appearance of the county court houses, their decoration and building

11 Old Public Hall at L'Isle-Verte

Built 1859-60; designed and built by Benjamin Dionne. There was a room in the attic for the judge so that he could stay in the court house when he was making his rounds. Although this building is in poor condition, it may soon be restored. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)



12 Huntingdon County Building

Built 1859-60; John James Browne, architect. This building is imposing with its central pediment, wide facade entablature, pilasters flanking the main entrance and elegant stone masonry. It was designed with a sense of rivalry with the town of Ste-Martine. One small cell, used as a temporary jail, has been preserved, and the former courtroom has been transformed into a classroom. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

materials, depended on the economic situation and goals of each county council. The central government could intervene in these matters only indirectly. Very few counties, such as Huntingdon (Fig. 12), could afford to engage an architect to design their court houses.

Generally, the buildings were rectangular, for example, the court houses at Huntingdon, Brome (Fig. 13), Vaudreuil (Fig. 14) and Ste-Julienne (Fig. 15). Other buildings, however, such as the county court house at Soulanges at Coteau-Landing (Figs 16, 17), were square. Without firm guidelines, a wide variety of architecture was possible. At L'Assomption (Fig. 18), a private house was purchased in preference to building a court house.

As the construction of these court houses depended on the finances of each county, an attempt was often made to save on the outside materials. At St-Michel-de-Bellechasse (Fig. 19), wood was chosen for construction to minimize costs. But many counties used brick and even stone to safeguard documents and to add to the prestige of the building.

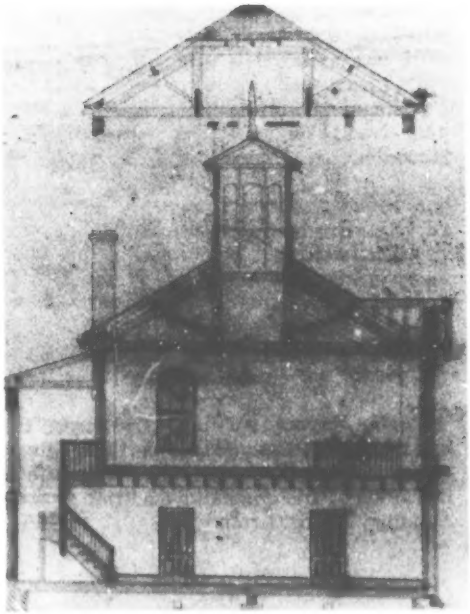
At the same time, rivalry between neighbouring counties, mainly in the Montreal region (for example, Vaudreuil, Huntingdon and Iberville counties), led some county councils to erect buildings with sophisticated stylistic and decorative details, such as pediments, columns or pilasters and entablatures.[36] Other councils were motivated simply by a desire to have a building suited to the dignity of justice.

13 Brome County Building
Built 1859; James Ball, architect. The central pediment, supported by four columns, and the recessed facade, forming an open portico, give the appearance of a Greek temple, similar to the second court house at Sherbrooke. Architect F.P Rubidge was asked to alter the plans for this building. (Brome County Historical Society)

14 Vaudreuil Registry Office
Built 1859; Adolphe Moffatt, architect. This rather sophisticated building was designed by a teacher who received two pounds sterling for his plans. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

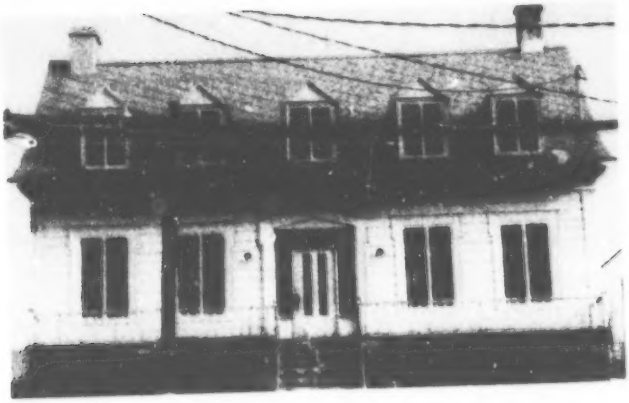
15 Ste-Julienne Registry Office
Built 1859-60; Edouard Beaupré, probable architect. In 1915 this building was used temporarily as a chapel after the church at Ste-Julienne burned down. In 1919 over thirty World War I draft dodgers were sentenced here. What is remarkable about this building is that its architecture resembles that of a private home. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

16 Former Court House at Coteau-Landing
Built 1858; designed by a committee. This municipality built a court house so that it could remain the county seat and maintain an economic importance. It was successfully designed by laymen. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)



17 Former Court House at Coteau-Landing
See also Figure 16. Cross-section of the court house. (Archives nationales du Québec, Montreal)

18 Former Court House at L'Assomption
Built 1811, addition in 1822; architect unknown. In 1842 Jean-Moise Raymond, the owner of this house, which was also a store, was appointed registrar and he converted the house into a registry office. In 1858 with a grant of twelve hundred dollars, it was transformed into a court house. This building was classified a historic monument by the Quebec government. (Public Archives Canada, PA 36748)



19 Old Parish Hall of St-Michel-de-Bellechasse
Built 1859-60; designed by city council. There was a room in the attic for the judge so that he could stay in the court house when he was making his rounds. This building demonstrates the influence of the domestic tradition in many county court houses. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

The reorganization created by the act of 1857 would have a profound influence on the entire judicial system of the province up to the beginning of the twentieth century. From 1867 to 1914, the legal system of Quebec underwent a major period of consolidation and decentralization. New territories were opened up, and with this came a few new districts: Pontiac (1891), Labelle (1912), Roberval (1912) and Nicolet (1915), in which new court houses had to be built.

Following Confederation, the Department of Public Works of Quebec took over responsibility for the construction of the district court houses. Pierre Gauvreau became the chief architect. Having joined the Department of Public Works for United Canada in 1848, he worked under the direction of F.P. Rubidge[37] and thus played an active role in the building of the district court houses constructed between 1859 and 1863.

In January 1869, the Aylmer court house burned down. The conditions Rubidge's general plan had to meet in 1858 were no longer the same. Now, only a single building was required and the budgetary constraints were therefore less strict. Even if the 1858 plan was no longer completely justified, it was advantageous to have the plan prepared by the Department of Public Works. Architect Pierre Gauvreau prepared the plans for the new building (Fig. 20), which resembles the buildings designed under Rubidge's direction as Gauvreau pursued the same tradition.

During the last third of the nineteenth century, new building techniques were introduced, including facades with stone or cast-iron framework.[38] New stylistic forms, such as Second Empire, became popular.

> This style, which in its pure form is characterized by the mansard roof, projecting pavilions, richly plastic classical ornamentation, and a lively broken roof silhouette created by heavily decorated dormers, tall chimneys, iron-cresting, and mansarded towers, was adopted by the federal government for its massive post-Confederation building programme as a suitable symbol of the power and confidence of the new nation.[39]

This symbolism seems to have been adopted by the Quebec Department of Public Works, perhaps to keep up-to-date, for the court houses it was to build later.

The first sign of this change came when the court house at Rivière-du-Loup was built

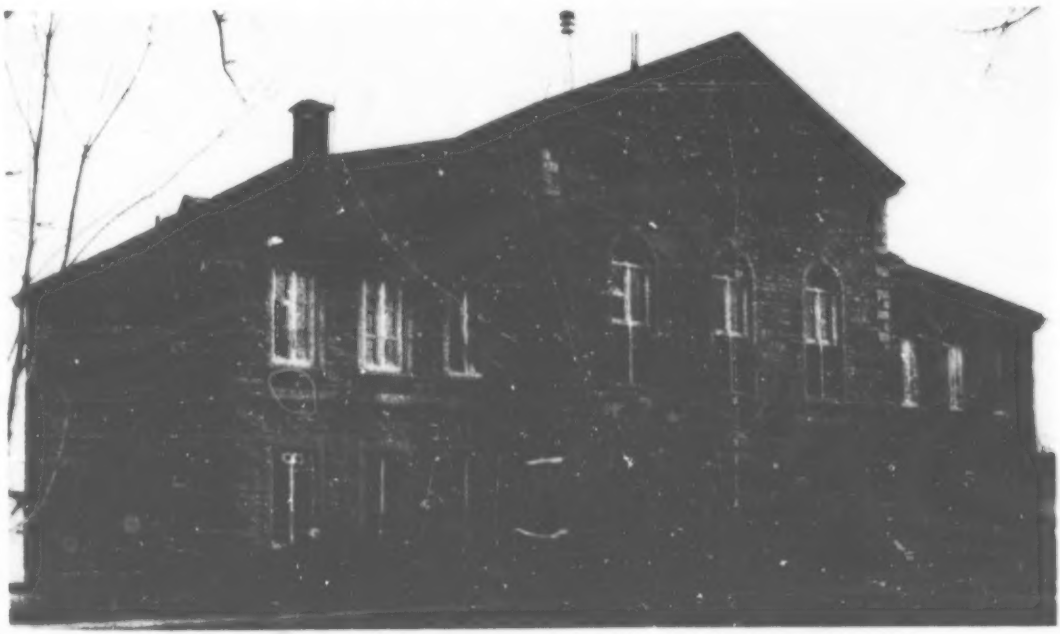
in 1882. The government chose Rivière-du-Loup, the chief town of the region, as county seat, to replace Kamouraska where the district court house had burned down. Designed by Pierre Gauvreau, the new building (Fig. 21) was a departure from the architectural details and the design adopted since Rubidge. The new trends were evident in the court house at Quebec City (Fig. 22) and the new court house at Sherbrooke (Fig. 23), both built according to Public Works' plans.

Jean-Baptiste Derome succeeded Gauvreau as chief architect for the provincial Department of Public Works and in 1887 he was replaced by Paul Cousin. Elzéar Charest then held the post from 1891 to 1914.[40] All these architects directed the preparation of plans and the construction of new district court houses, except for the one at Roberval (Fig. 24).[41]

The county court houses now tended to adopt similar forms and characteristics. The buildings constructed between 1867 and 1914 often comprised the following features: rather square forms, two storeys, brick facings and a courtroom located on the upper floor. An example of this arrangement is the court house at Ste-Martine (Fig. 25).

The tendency toward similar shapes and characteristics may be explained primarily by the standardization of the functions filled by these buildings. Most of the county court houses built from 1867 onward had to accommodate the circuit court, magistrate's court, the registry office and the county council. A two-storey building provided the necessary space.

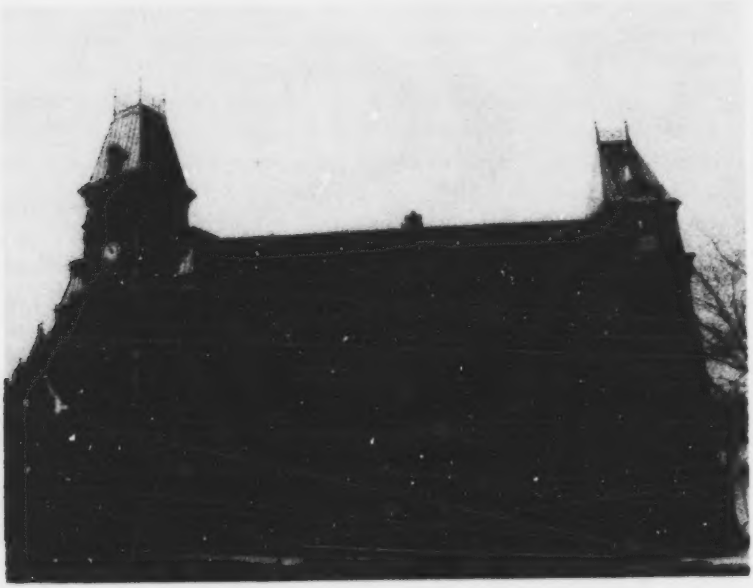
The courtroom and the judge's chamber were still located on the upper floor. The ground floor provided space for the registry



20 Aylmer Court House (now Aylmer town hall)
Built 1870-71; Pierre Gauvreau, architect. The second court house at Aylmer was designed by the Quebec Department of Public Works. This building indicates the extensive influence of Rubidge's standard plan and Gauvreau seems to have followed it in detail. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

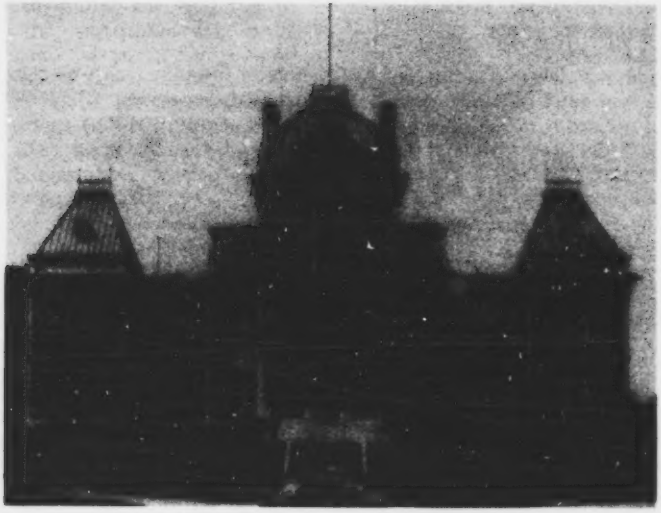
21 Rivière-du-Loup Court House

Built 1882-83; Pierre Gauvreau, architect. This building marks a revival in the construction of district court houses. Here Rubidge's standard plan was passed over and the Quebec Department of Public Works finally asserted itself. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



22 Quebec City Court House

Built 1883-89; Jean-Baptiste Derome, architect. Eugène Taché designed the facades of the building, which was part of the reform movement of the Department of Public Works. Its prestige befits the provincial capital. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)



23 Sherbrooke Court House

Built 1904-6; Elzéar Charest, architect. This building is located on an attractive rise in the city centre, indicating the impact sought. The Stanstead gray granite and the pink stone provide a pleasant contrast and enhance the appearance of this court house. (Eastern Townships Historical Society)

24 Roberval Court House

Built 1909; Joseph P. Ouellet, architect. The town of Roberval built this court house to compete with Chicoutimi in persuading the provincial government to make the town the county seat; they entrusted the plans to the famous architect Joseph P. Ouellet. Their tactic worked. (Saguenay Historical Society, Card No. 8097)

25 Ste-Martine Registry Office

Built 1887-88; Maurice Perrault and Albert Mesnard, architects. In the small agricultural town of Ste-Martine, this building became the second most important building, after the church. There are several original decorative details, such as a canopy, dormer windows, frontispiece, coat of arms, stringcourses and tie-rod finials, seldom found in county court houses. It is the French counterpart of the Huntingdon County Building. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

office, the clerk, the county council and the strong-room. A square building, with a central corridor and rooms on either side, seemed to be the simplest and most functional arrangement.

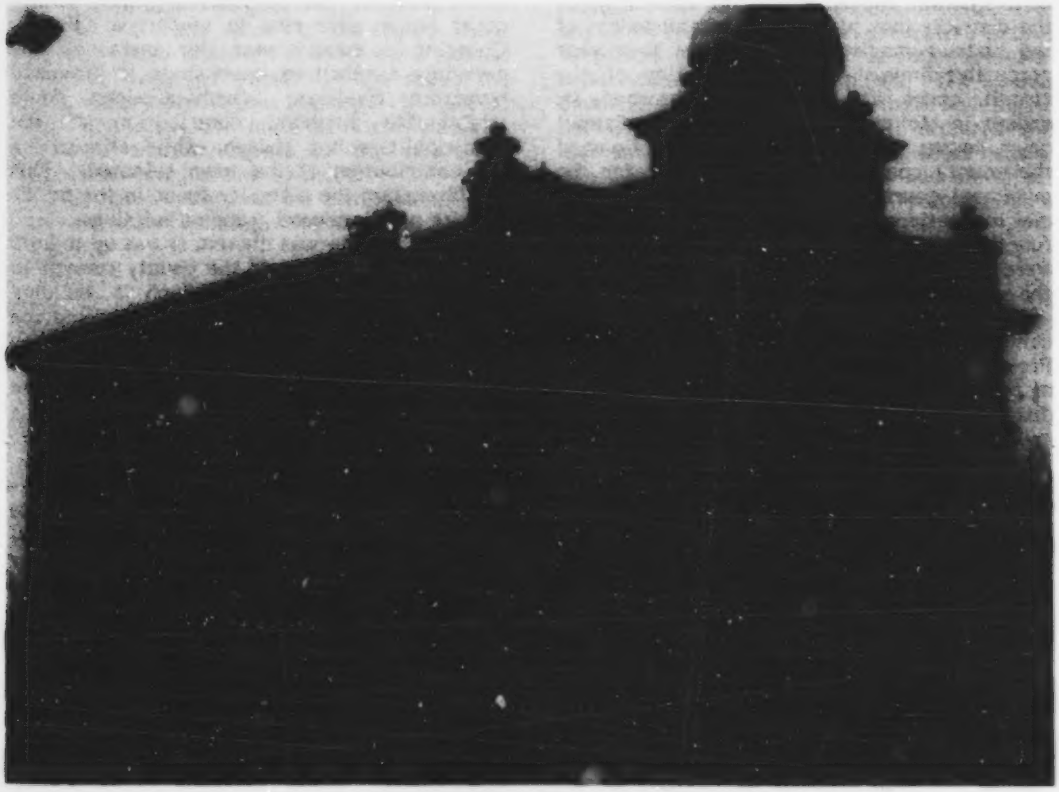
The architectural details for this type of court house, the decoration and the building materials varied from one county to another. An example is the court house at St-Raphaël in Bellechasse County (Fig. 26). The tastes of the architect and the builder, as well as the money made available to them, explain this tendency.

There are, however, consistent aspects in these buildings. Because of the high risk of fire for wooden buildings, the counties preferred to use brick or stone. Less expensive and more accessible than stone, brick was very much in fashion, especially after 1867; the county court houses of Bagot, Rouville, Châteauguay and Terrebonne were brick.

During the 1870s, government authorities

established firm criteria for the building of strong-rooms and the extension of court houses to ensure greater security for judicial documents. At the same time, closer control over expenditures for public buildings was required. The Department of Public Works had architects prepare plans and specifications of most annexes or strong-rooms; for example, it built additions to the court houses in Vaudreuil, Brome, Soulanges, Bagot, Wolfe and Mégantic. For security, strong-rooms had to be built outside the original building. The location could vary, at the back or at the side of the building, so that there was easy access to this room from the registry office. In accordance with government standards, a small, brick, one-storey strong-room, usually square, was the most common type.

Thus, between 1867 and 1914, county court houses evolved in more or less the same way as the district judicial buildings. Although they did not follow identical plans, most of these buildings had many features in common and this made it possible to ensure a certain uniformity in the distribution of judicial services. At the same time, certain safety standards applicable to all public buildings were observed. The revision of the original



26 Court House, St.-Raphaël, Bellechasse County
Built 1899-1900; architect unknown. The architect of this building combined classical decorative elements with the domestic tradition to give the court house an impressive bearing. The effect is most unusual. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

plans by Quebec's Department of Public Works and the drawing up of plans and specifications for strong-rooms and annexes clearly illustrate the government's wish to closely supervise the construction of all judicial institutions

The court system and judicial building gradually established in the Province of Quebec up to the beginning of the twentieth century corresponded to the desire of various government authorities to ensure judicial representation which was increasingly consistent with demographic and territorial development. In this context, legislative action enabled the government to modify and decentralize the courts.

Nevertheless, from 1922 onward, a judicial centralization movement to the advantage of the districts took place. The establishment of the district magistrate's court in that year gradually diminished the jurisdiction of the circuit court and eventually absorbed it, except in Montreal.[41] Gradually the district court houses took over the main functions of the county court houses and, except for the municipal courts, they became the sole judicial institutions in Quebec. Virtually the only functions remaining to the county court houses were those required by the registry office and the seat of the county council.

Responsibility for building court houses came under two administrative levels in the Province of Quebec. The various departments of public works assumed responsibility for the district court houses. It was up to the county councils to handle the construction of their judicial buildings. This administrative split could explain the apparent discrepancy found in the architectural development of the court house.

The Department of Public Works was a coherent body, directed by a chief architect. This department represented the government's social and economic situation and conveyed the government's image of justice by means of the architecture of the buildings it constructed. A government that built mediocre buildings would have given rise to certain doubts regarding the state of its finances. This might explain the large construction budget of the department. Furthermore, this department constituted one of the main economic forces in the country, in view of the contracts it awarded. In addition, the buildings had to be endowed with a certain sternness so that the people would respect these governmental institutions. This policy would be adopted by the various governments entrusted with the construction of district court houses that followed up to Confederation.

Because of the large budgets made available to it, the Department of Public Works could erect prestigious buildings. As the plans originated from the same source, there is a certain unity in the appearance of the district court houses demonstrated particularly in the layout of the interior and the choice of similar decorative details.

The composition, of the county councils, however, varied greatly. Since these bodies were formed by the mayors of the different municipalities, the construction of a county court house gave rise to numerous debates. Choosing a county seat, for instance, was certainly a sensitive issue since it provoked numerous rivalries. Such rivalries could inhibit the financial contribution of the municipalities not chosen, while stimulating the contribution of the town selected. This would explain the diversity found in the architecture of this second group of buildings.

Once the site was chosen, it was up to both the designated town and the county council to build the court house. Such a building reflected the prosperity of the county and the town in which it was constructed rather than that of the government responsible for its construction. The only point of reference the various county councils had in common was a government grant and a few instructions pertaining chiefly to the layout of the interior.

If it was within the means of the municipality chosen and the county, an architect was hired to draw up the plans. Otherwise, a local builder was simply called upon and given a few guidelines or, occasionally, a plan. The size of these buildings, the building materials and the decorative details depended therefore more on the money the county and the town had available than on a wish to portray the government's prestige.

In spite of this administrative division, an architectural tradition developed in the construction of Quebec's court houses partly because of the similarity of functions reserved for this type of building and partly because of the mental picture the architecture of these buildings was supposed to inspire.

Those who built the court houses had the

task of erecting a public building that would create a more impressive image than that of the current government's financial situation. Above all, they wanted to demonstrate the democratic aspect and the durability of the judicial system recently established. This is why a court house was often perceived as a building of major significance in the place it was located. Unlike in Ontario, for instance, in Quebec a judicial building is very often found on the main street of a town. To strengthen this impression of prestige, a park was frequently laid out around these buildings to show them off to even greater advantage. In short, no effort was spared to increase the influence the judicial system might have on the conduct of the people.

The materials used to construct these buildings also helped evoke the judicial system's image of durability and make the court house a prestigious building. The use of stone and brick for most of these buildings reflected another aspect of the desire to establish a new judicial tradition.

It is noteworthy that the communities that built a wooden building were the geographical centres of the county, rather than the leading towns. This could explain the budgetary constraints the county councils were subject to in these particular cases. Furthermore, since these centres did not really constitute the county seat, perhaps they did not expect to keep the court house indefinitely.

The architecture of the court houses had a symbolic worth probably even greater than the use of certain building materials. This symbolic representation is found most often in the buildings constructed by the various departments of public works. They used chiefly conservative decorative details throughout most of the period in question. Was it felt perhaps that these architectural elements best reflected the democratic aspect of justice? In any case, the use of similar decorative details simplified the identification of court houses as a particular group of buildings. The county councils also wished to lend their buildings a certain uniformity by using architectural elements inspired by the district court houses. Thus, the district court houses had an effect on the architecture of judicial buildings as a whole in the Province of Quebec.

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF ONTARIO

Kelly Crossman and Dana Johnson

Introduction

Despite the ravages of time and the indifference of an often insensitive public, forty court houses constructed before 1914 survive in the Province of Ontario. Though not all are now used for judicial purposes, this collection of buildings constitutes an important cultural statement about the province's past. Firstly, these structures have played a major role in our local history; they were the centres for judicial and civil administration at the district and county level since Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec, respectively) were separated in 1791. Their role was especially important during the early stages of the region's historical development, before rural and urban municipal governments were instituted. Secondly, they came to symbolize, as well as house, the judicial process which has been so crucial to the orderly development of the province. Thirdly, these buildings were seen by contemporaries as evidence of the moral, social and economic well-being of the citizenry that supported their construction; as one local historian has noted, such buildings "reflect the intelligence and enterprise, the wealth and culture of the people."[1] For all of these reasons, then, the court house must be considered an important building type in Ontario.

The Ontario court house is a result of both the importance given the district or county in local government by the legislature, and the complexity of functions the public has demanded of its government. In contrast, for example, with Quebec, the district or county in Ontario has always been an important level of government. When the Loyalists came to what was to become Ontario after the American Revolution, the territory was still an unorganized wilderness under the jurisdiction of the governor at Quebec City. Having fought for the benefits of British law and institutions during the war, they then found themselves under a system of law and government derived from pre-conquest French colonial practice. Demands for the introduction of British laws and institutions placed British colonial authorities in a quandry; they could either satisfy the legitimate demands of a group of political exiles, or respond to the wishes of an overwhelming, if nationally foreign, majority. To satisfy immediate needs Loyalist officers were commissioned as justices of the peace in the various settlements in 1784; four years later, the western section of the colony was divided into four judicial districts, each with a court of common pleas possessing unlimited civil, but no criminal, jurisdiction. Such "solutions" were obviously short term, and three years later the British government separated Upper and Lower Canada. By the Constitutional Act of 1791 the district was established as the unit of local government in Upper Canada, placing the administration of both justice and civic affairs in the hands of magistrates appointed by the lieutenant-governor.[2]

Among the first acts of the newly formed legislature was the establishment *in toto* of the British code of law, and the authorization of the building of a court house and jail in each of the four districts. The magistrates, meeting in quarter sessions of the peace, were permitted to determine the site for the building in the district town, procure plans, enter into contracts for the construction, appoint a jailer and set his salary, and draw up rules for the superintendence of the jail.[3] To finance this construction the legislature authorized the levying of a local property tax, with a limit of one penny per pound of assessed valuation imposed in 1796.

In spite of these arrangements early court house construction was slow to begin. Between the establishment of the courts of common pleas in 1788 and the construction of the first court house, judges held courts in taverns, private homes and other meeting places. A more difficult problem was the lack of proper jail facilities. Escapes from custody were common, and the sheriff was held legally responsible both for the escape and for any consequences arising from it. Sheriffs particularly protested the lack of proper facilities;

one threatened to resign because he was forced to detain prisoners in his own home. Judges, too, protested against temporary makeshifts, arguing that justice itself was impaired by such arrangements. Richard Cartwright, the judge in the Mecklenburg District, reported that since

> the District is unprovided for with either a Court House or Prison we need not mention how inconvenient and in some cases impossible it will be to carry the Laws into effect....[W]ere the judges authorized at the expense of the District to have this [building now used as a gaol] put into a proper state of repair, and to hire and fit up a room for the holding of courts in, the business of the District might be carried on with some degree of convenience till such a building as above mentioned could be erected.[4]

The problems standing in the way of construction varied from district to district. In some, disputes among the magistrates delayed the decision-making process; a debate over an appropriate site, for example, delayed the construction of the Ottawa District Court House for eight years. More often, however, the difficulty was accumulating sufficient funds to begin construction. The limited resources of newly settled areas, the unpopularity of direct taxation, and the restricted levy allowed by the provincial legislature made it extremely difficult for the magistrates to proceed quickly to construct their first court house.[5]

As the colony grew in population and prospered, the pace of court house construction increased. To improve judicial procedures and to make the courts more accessible, the legislature gradually increased the number of districts. By 1820 there were ten districts; by 1849, when the districts were superseded by the county system now in use, eleven additional districts had been created. Furthermore, the legislature, faced with vigorous criticism of the magistrates' mixing of judicial and civil duties, reduced the administrative role of quarter sessions. In 1841 elected district councils were established to take over the civil responsibilities which the justices of the peace had hitherto wielded. Eight years later district councils, and the districts themselves, were abolished and replaced by the system of county councils and counties which remains in force today.[6]

In spite of this changing governmental structure, the role of the court house remained essentially the same; even after the separation of governmental and judicial functions in 1841, the court house continued to be the centre of both local government and judicial administration. Separate administrative headquarters for the counties were not usually built even after 1841. Instead the court house itself generally became more monumental in scale, more elaborate in design, and more complex both in function and in the arrangement of its interior space.

Nor did the change in 1841 much affect the way in which court houses were built and managed. Acting in their civil capacity, the magistrates generally appointed a building committee of from four to seven of its own members, occasionally adding one or two prominent citizens to assist. The committee was authorized to obtain plans (most often by way of an architectural competition), arrange financing, call tenders, superintend construction and arrange for the furnishing of the completed structure. They reported regularly to the magistrates; because the construction of a court house was such a major expenditure, the public was usually kept informed through newspaper reports. In a system of government depending upon local consent, public support for the magistrates' actions was crucial to the success of the building project; even so, the process occasionally broke down. One dissident group in the Newcastle District, for example, disputed the site of a new court house in Hamilton in 1829; when the magistrates rejected their criticisms they retaliated by suing the magistrates and then obtaining a parliamentary inquiry into the whole question.[7]

The introduction of elected, rather than appointed, local bodies appears not to have modified these procedures. Elected councils also selected building committees from among their own members. Because councillors were elected rather than appointed, the decision-making process may have been more political and public than it had been under the magistrates, but the change in administrative responsibility had no substantial effect on the buildings themselves in terms of style, scale or siting.

From the late 1840s to the turn of the century the only major exception to this process of councils and committees is the construction of court houses in northern Ontario. Because of the great distances and the small population, the north was not organized into independent counties but into judicial districts dependent on the provincial government. Among the responsibilities of the central government was the provision of a district court house and jail and these were all designed and constructed under the direction of the provincial Department of Public Works. Under government practice, the design of the court houses was the responsibility of the chief architect, so that every surviving court house in the north can be credited to either Kivas Tully or his successor, Frank R. Heakes. As a result, it is possible to trace the evolution of the court house in the north with considerable accuracy and to see by 1924 the development of a standard format for provincial court houses.

The Ontario Court House Before 1850

Of the forty pre-1914 court houses remaining in Ontario, only thirteen were built before the passage of the Baldwin Act in 1849, and only six pre-date the abolition of local government by magistrates in 1841. These "elder sisters" among the province's court houses are at L'Orignal (1824), London (1827), Toronto (Osgoode Hall, 1829), Cornwall (1830), Picton (1832) and Peterborough (1838).

No building survives from the period before 1824, so that the earliest court houses are known to us only through documentary records. These first judicial buildings were of log or frame construction, simple in form and clearly designed to be only temporary. The original Eastern District Court House at Cornwall appears to have been typical; the magistrates approved the construction of a building

> 30 feet long by 24 feet wide in the clear, two storeys, the lower to be built of square oak or pine logs, 12 inches thick, and to be eight feet between the floors, with the chimney at one end of the house, with one fire place below and above. The lower floor to be divided [into] three rooms to wit: one for the gaoler and two for the criminals, with double walls and partitions round the small rooms and one large room above for the convenience of the Court and Petit Jury. The floors to be of hewn oak or pine timber, 12 inches thick, under and over the criminal's room.[8]

Such buildings were simple to design and construct; they required no architect or even a professional builder and employed readily available materials and skills. Similar in form to contemporary domestic architecture, these structures were planned to last only for a short time.

Within a generation these pioneer court houses were replaced by more sophisticated and more permanent buildings of brick or stone. In a few cases, these structures survive as the county's municipal building, while in others, the growth of the district and the expanding needs of its government meant that this second building itself lasted only another generation or two. Among the districts formed before 1841, the first court house survives only at L'Orignal, Picton and Peterborough. Lanark County (originally the Bathurst District) still uses its second court house, constructed in 1842-43, to replace an 1822 building which burned down. More commonly, the existing court house is the third, fourth or even fifth judicial structure erected in the county. The case of the Gore District (now Wentworth County) seems typical. Set apart in 1816, the district immediately began construction of a modest two-storey, four-room court house measuring thirty feet square. The first floor was built of logs and contained a jail and office; the second, of frame construction, housed the courtroom. First used in 1818, it was deemed inadequate by 1826, when the magistrates began work on a new building on a more prominent site in the new town of Hamilton. Also two storeys high, this second structure was classical in style and much more elegant in finish. It featured eight rooms on the first floor, approached by a generous entry hall which culminated in a finely turned staircase. This led to an impressive second-floor courtroom with offices adjacent; the jail was in a separate building. This served until 1876 when it was demolished for an even finer Italianate court

1 Ottawa District (now the United Counties of Prescott and Russell) Court House, L'Orignal, Ontario
This is the earliest surviving example of an Ontario court house. The original sections were single-storey blocks, since linked and heightened to two storeys by additions in 1849-50 and 1861. Though the exterior changes have been severe, the simplicity of its vernacular design is still evident. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

house which was opened, in a splendid ceremony, in 1879.[9]

If surviving examples reflect contemporary trends in design, these early buildings were generally vernacular in style.[10] The court house at L'Orignal (Fig. 1) is a good example of this post-pioneer vernacular type of building. It is the oldest extant court house in the province and was begun in 1824 after eight years of controversy over the choice of a suitable site. Later additions have considerably modified both its proportions and its arrangement of space, but it is still possible to discern the original concept. Built of brown stone, it was rectangular and simply finished. The original section measured only forty-five by forty feet, and its modest size and Georgian symmetry gave it a decidedly domestic appearance. The interior has been much altered, but a floor plan prepared in 1839 reveals that the jail contained separate cells for debtors and criminals, offices for the sheriff and jailer, and indoor privies. The court house contained a simple courtroom, with small side offices for the judge and jurors. We do not know the name of the

architect - the design is undoubtedly by a non-professional - but it was built by local men under the direction of a building committee, and the candidates for designer are local men as well.[11]

Two other court houses of this vernacular type survive at Cornwall and Picton. Both date from the early 1830s and are more elaborate than the example at L'Orignal. Both have undergone some change; a large-scale portico and cupola have made the Picton Court House more monumental, while the Cornwall example has had numerous additions made to it. In both cases the basic design formula applied at L'Orignal was employed; each is domestic in proportions, with a five-bay facade of cut stone, a second-floor courtroom, and plentiful evidence of local craftsmanship.

Of the two examples, the court house at Picton is the more charming (Fig. 2), partly because its original site has been less impaired by the growth of the town around it. Here, too, the hand of the professional is absent; the design was produced by the building committee, perhaps in concert with the master

2 Prince Edward District (now County) Court House, Picton, Ontario
Built 1832-41; building committee of council, architect. The addition of a cupola and portico has given a degree of monumentality to this building, but the simple, domestic quality of the original concept is still apparent. It was, in essence, a large Georgian-styled house, modified for civic use. The interior layout was similarly simple; a central hallway gave access to offices to the right and left, with the jail to the rear, while the second floor was devoted to the courtroom, with side chambers for judge and jury. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

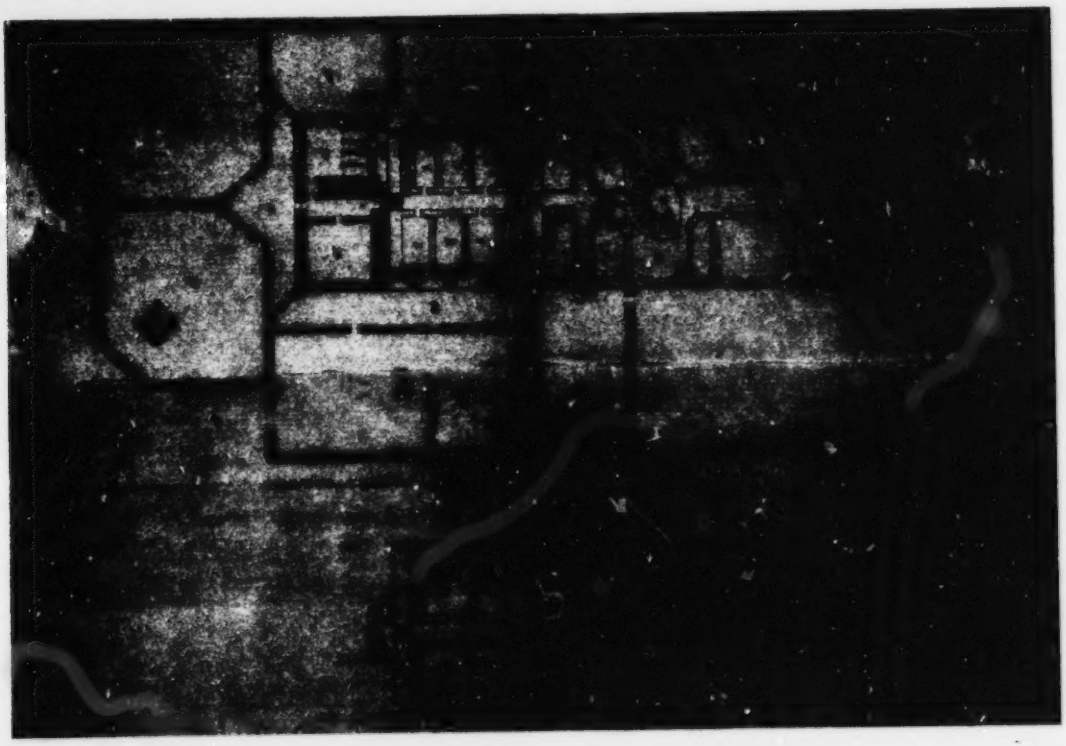
3 Eastern District (now the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry) Court House, Cornwall, Ontario

Built 1830-33; Archibald Fraser, architect. The simplicity of composition evident at Picton is repeated but the ornamental detailing is slightly more elaborate. For example, the roofline is more complex and the centre section projects forward. The interior, on the other hand, is in advance of the Picton example. More office space is provided, the jail has been moved to a more secure location in the basement, and a vestibule protects the second-floor courtroom from drafts and noise. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

builders, McLeod and Gill, at a public meeting at David Hopkins' Inn at Hallowell (Picton). The scale is larger than at L'Orignal, the building mesuring seventy by forty-four feet; the specifications called for cut stone, with a roof covered in tin.[12]

Because it is the work of Archibald Fraser, a master builder who often doubled as an architect, the court house at Cornwall (Fig. 3) moves a small step forward in architectural sophistication. Though Fraser's drawings appear not to have survived, the building is a particularly interesting example because nineteenth century drawings exist showing the original intentions of the designer. Constructed to replace an earlier building which burned down in 1826, Fraser's 1830 court house is larger in scale and more elaborate in architectural detail. As in Picton and L'Orignal, the courtroom occupied the upper floor, with the jail and offices below. The jail facilities were much more extensive; vaulted cells were provided for both males and females, debtors and criminals, while rooms were set aside for day use, the examination of prisoners, a separate kitchen, and offices. In layout, too, the building was more sophisticated than earlier examples. The courtroom was shielded from drafts and noise by a screen of wood and glass, through which one had to pass to reach the courtroom; in earlier buildings, the entryway provided direct access to interior rooms. The plan is notable for its efficiency. Fraser faced the formidable problem of squeezing a fully equipped jail and court house into what was essentially a Georgian house. The problem was not solely one of space, for regardless of the internal composition, the architect had to meld functional requirements to the rigidly symmetrical elevations demanded by Georgian taste. These problems were intensified in larger buildings, particularly when natural light was virtually the only adequate source of illumination.[13]

By the 1820s, then, court houses designed by trained architects, or by architect/builders, began to appear, and quickly these more sophisticated designs became the rule. Two examples, both demolished during the nineteenth century, may be taken to illustrate this shift away from the vernacular. The magistrates of the Midland District decided to replace their court house at Kingston in 1822; since the town was the colony's largest settlement, its district buildings had to be particularly elaborate. In 1823 quarter sessions approved a set of plans, probably prepared by the local architect Thomas Rogers. Considered by the chief justice undoubtedly the finest building of its kind in Upper Canada, it was predictably classical in style. Among the colony's public buildings it was notable for both its scale and cost. Sixty feet wide and 200 feet long, it was surmounted by an octagonal dome whose 150-foot spire dominated the town until the building was demolished in 1855. Because of its size, the interior space was correspondingly intricate; jail and offices



4 Midland District (now Frontenac County) Court House, Kingston, Ontario
Built 1823–26 (demolished); Thomas Rogers, architect (attributed). This floor plan was prepared by Rogers in 1839 and shows the intricacy of the layout. If Rogers produced the original plans, this building was the first in Ontario designed by a professional architect. The exterior, of which no satisfactory rendering has surfaced, had an able but standard classical facade, surmounted by an octagonal cupola and spire. The plan (the key has unfortunately been lost) is still traditional: the courtroom occupies the second floor while offices and jail are located below. Because the building is large, however, the layout is more elaborate than earlier examples. The building was demolished in 1855 for a customs house. (Public Archives Canada)

5 Proposed Newcastle District Court House, Hamilton, Ontario
Built 1829; John G. Chewett, architect. Chewett's floor plan was rejected by the building committee in favour of a proposal by Archibald Fraser, but his facade, shown here in Chewett's competition drawings, was substituted for Fraser's. There is a textbookish formality to the design, but it is clearly in advance of the vernacular (and later) plans for court houses at Cornwall and Picton. (Archives of Ontario)

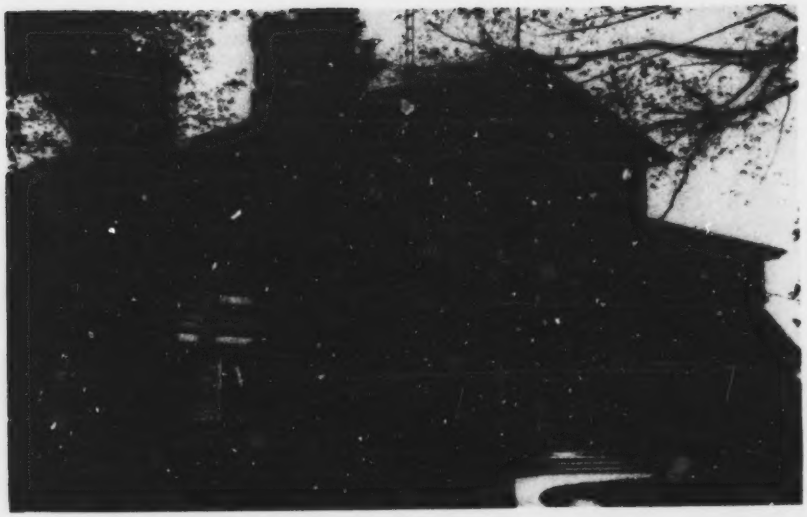
were located on the first floor, while as one traveller noted, "on the upper floor is one of the best fitted Court-rooms in the province." Access was provided by an elegant circular staircase which gave the interior a focus and organized the spaces around it (Fig. 4).[14]

Rather more documentation has survived for the Newcastle District Court House, constructed near Amherst (now Cobourg) between 1829 and 1831.[15] The building committee organized an architectural competition for a combined court house and jail, three storeys high,

> the first story [*sic*] to be of stone, second and third stories of Brick, to contain Criminal Cells, Debtors Rooms, Gaoler's Apartments, Court Room, Grand and Petit Jury Rooms; Also Rooms for Offices, etc. such as are usually required in such a Building.

Apart from limiting the total cost to five thousand pounds, and requiring that the roof be tin, the building committee provided no further guidelines. Perhaps in consequence only three sets of plans were submitted. As at Cornwall the chosen design was prepared by Archibald Fraser, though he borrowed his facade from another design submitted by the Toronto architect and surveyor John G. Chewett (Fig. 5). The latter's competition drawings show a three-storey rectangular structure, nine bays wide. The design is notable because it was a conscious attempt to reproduce in Upper Canada a public building based on English prototypes. While we do not know the exact source of Chewett's plans and elevations, they are clearly derived, in compositional terms, from eighteenth century English public architecture, notably Sir William Chambers's Somerset House in London. Additional inspiration, if any were needed, was probably derived from popular architectural plan and pattern books, such as Colon Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*, copies of which had begun to enter the colony.[16]

As trained architects became more commonly associated with the design of court houses, then, the simple vernacular detailing evident at L'Orignal and Picton was superseded by more sophisticated, classically inspired ornamentation. Facades became more elaborate, the simple three- and five-bay



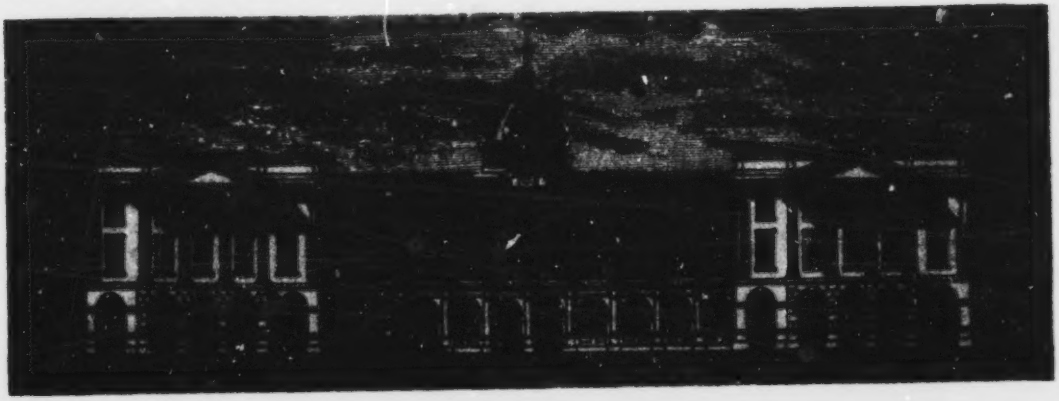
6 Bathurst District (now Lanark County) Court House, Perth, Ontario
Built 1842-43; Malcolm Macpherson, architect. Perhaps because it was designed by a trained civil engineer, this building is notable for its simple detailing. The standard form of central pavilion and side wings is again employed, but there is no portico or dome to relieve the plainness of the facade. Typical of Perth, the stonework is exceptional. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

7 Frontenac County Court House, Kingston, Ontario
Built 1855-58; Edward Horsey, architect. The standard compositional form, in contrast with the simplicity of the Perth building, is given an elegant and sophisticated treatment by a trained architect of considerable skill. Classical and Italianate details are freely mixed, but the overall effect is pleasing. A fire in 1865 destroyed Horsey's dome, and it was redesigned by another hand to give it greater emphasis; otherwise, the exterior of the building remains largely as the architect intended. (Queen's University Archives)

front being replaced by a compositional scheme of portico, wings and optional cupola. This, in fact, became common among judicial buildings in Ontario until the late 1860s and was used in court houses for the Peterborough District (1838 at Peterborough), Lanark County (1842 at Perth, Fig. 6), Frontenac County (1855-58 at Kingston, Fig. 7) and Ontario County (1852-53 at Whitby).[17]

Among surviving buildings, Osgoode Hall in Toronto best illustrates this transition from vernacular amateur plans to ornate, classically inspired designs (Fig. 8). Among the examples cited, it alone was not planned as a court house, but as the headquarters of the Law Society of Upper Canada.[18] The original building, constructed between 1829 and 1832, survives as the east wing of the present complex. Apparently designed by the amateur architect Dr. W.W. Baldwin and the builder John Ewart, it is a two-storey brick structure of a decidedly domestic character. Palladian-inspired in design, its domestic quality reflected its initial functions, for here the Law Society provided a library and living and dining areas for judges and lawyers, and bedrooms for articling students. This domestic character was masked as a result of a decision by the provincial government in 1844 to transform Osgoode Hall into a piece of

8 Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario
East wing built 1829-32; W.W. Baldwin and John Ewart, architects. Centre built 1857-59; Frederick W. Cumberland and William J. Storm, architects. West wing built 1844-46; Henry Bower Lane, architect. Among all Ontario court houses, none has a more complicated building history than Osgoode Hall. Originally constructed as the headquarters of the Law Society of Upper Canada, it has undergone many additions. Its south facade, shown here, is the result of three phases of construction; nevertheless, the composition is decidedly effective. (Archives of Ontario)



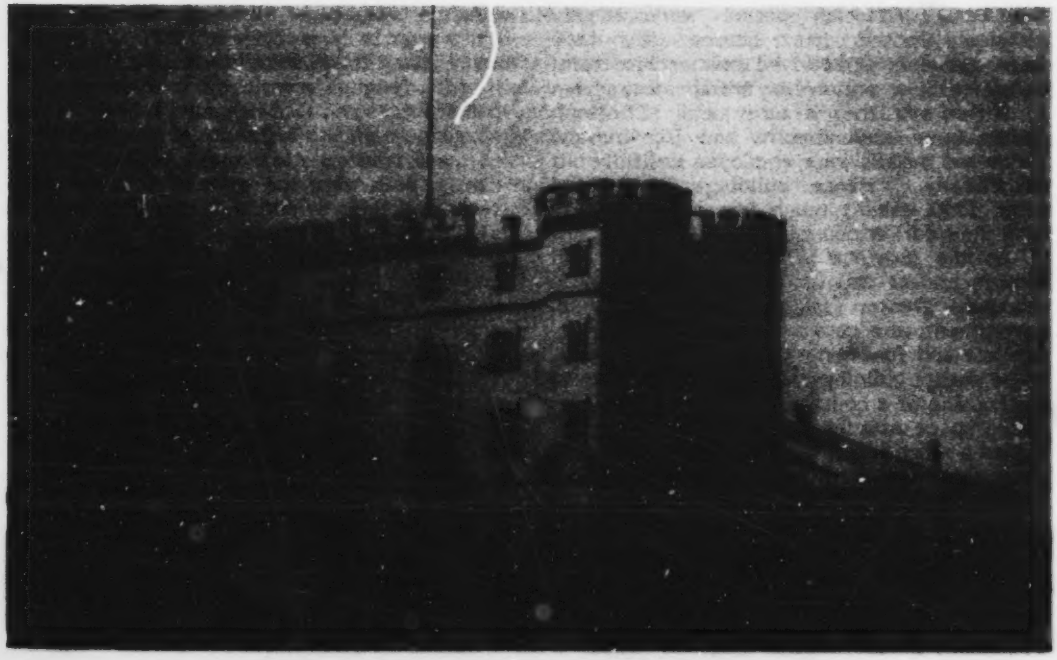
9 Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario

See also Figure 8. This view illustrates Henry Bower Lane's 1844 attempt to create a monumental symbolic structure as the headquarters of the province's superior courts at Osgoode Hall. The existing section (*right*) was decorated with a new facade and more elaborate window surrounds; a duplicate wing was constructed to the west, and the two connected by a stone arcade. Behind this, Lane constructed a library surmounted by a low dome. Though his handling of classical details was sometimes faulty - the openings in the arcade and the windows of the library, for example, are badly out of line - Lane's effort was a competent, if somewhat dated, neoclassical building. The wings survive but the centre was demolished in 1856. (Public Archives Canada)

monumental public architecture. To provide a location for the provincial courts the government commissioned the English-born and -trained architect Henry Bower Lane to incorporate the existing section into a larger scheme. His solution (Fig. 9) reflected the prevailing taste for classical design; he matched the existing wing to the west, and linked the two with an arcade, behind which he placed a library. The two wings were then visually linked with matching porticoes, and the whole composition topped with an octagonal dome. Though it was immediately judged a success, changing tastes and poor building techniques doomed Lane's building; his centre section was demolished barely a decade later and was replaced by an Italianate-style building designed by the fashionable Toronto firm of Cumberland and Storm. The three phases of building at Osgoode Hall encapsulate the design trends in court houses in Ontario before 1860; its initial domestically inspired section reflected the vernacular phase of early court houses, while Lane's 1844 was an able, if somewhat dated, neoclassical design based clearly on eighteenth century English prototypes. The 1857 reconstruction, on the other hand, heralds the advent of new and considerably more eclectic tastes in public architecture after 1850.

If classical designs appear to predominate among mid-Victorian Ontario court houses, public notions of taste did not dictate its exclusive use. Certainly the most notable departure from classicism was John Ewart's London District Court House (Fig. 10). In 1826 the existing court house at Vittoria burned, and the legislature agreed with local representatives who argued for a more central location for the district's capital. They settled on a townsite at the forks of the Thames River, a location reserved in 1794 as a potential site for the provincial capital, but never surveyed or settled. Within a year a building committee, under the stern leadership of the redoubtable Colonel Thomas Talbot, was superintending the construction of the first court house in the province to be both

Gothic in style and picturesque in aspect.[19] A decade later the English authoress Anna Jameson was astonished to find this exotic creation in the midst of the Upper Canada wilderness. "The jail and court house, comprised of one large, stately edifice, semed the glory of the townspeople," she observed.[20] Built of brick on a stone foundation, the court house was a fortress-like building one hundred feet across and fifty feet deep. Its four massive corner towers were octagonal and fifty feet high. The whole was graced with a flurry of sham-Gothic ornament, including diminutive buttresses, pointed window and door surrounds, and a heavy crenellated parapet. This imaginative and impressive exterior design clearly caused Ewart problems when he came to fit the traditional court house and jail functions into the interior space; six of the fourteen first-floor rooms, for example, had no windows. Among early Upper Canadian buildings it was unique, and one wonders whether the inspiration for it came from Colonel Talbot, rather than the architect. In either case, the London court house was an extraordinary public building for its time and stands out in dramatic contrast to the classically inspired court houses of the period. Two other Ontario court houses were built using Gothic motifs, at Guelph in 1841 and at Milton in 1854, but neither rivalled in scale or conception the undertaking at London.



10 London District (now Middlesex County) Court House, London, Ontario
Built 1827-31; John Ewart, architect. Ewart employed a compositional form basically classical, that is, a central pavilion with two side wings, in the form of octagonal towers, but the decorative elements are certainly Gothic. To be more "authentic" the building ought to have been constructed of stone, not brick, but the budget did not allow for such extravagance. This photograph is of Ewart's building before the major alterations of the 1880s, showing the court house virtually as he completed it. (Archives of Ontario)

The Southern Ontario Court House After 1850

After the passage of the Municipal Act of 1849, a wave of court house construction took place as districts were subdivided into counties. Of the forty extant buildings constructed before 1914, twenty-one were built between 1848 and 1866. These buildings differ markedly in overall character from buildings constructed before 1850. While no clear-cut demarcation can be cited, four factors differentiate these later from most earlier buildings: the diversity of their style, the increase in their scale, their elaborate detailing, and their growing functional complexity.

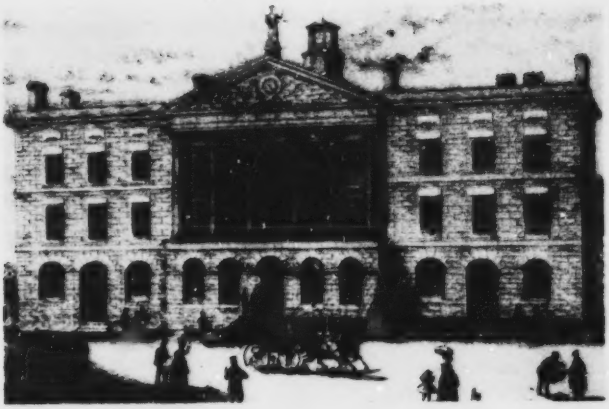
While early buildings were decidedly vernacular or Palladian in their design, and those of the early Victorian period were largely classical, Ontario court houses after 1850 were markedly eclectic in their architectural style, with a noticeable trend away from formalism to the picturesque. Classical, Italianate, Second Empire and Romanesque forms and details were employed skillfully but catholically. Hence buildings constructed after 1850 exhibit much less stylistic unity than their earlier counterparts.

As the province grew in population and wealth, and as counties were called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities in local government, the county court house changed in scale and function to meet these demands. While earlier buildings were devoted largely to the housing of a courtroom and jail, with some office space attached, later court houses included a much larger number of functions. To house the increasingly complex county bureaucratic structure, much more office space, with amenities such as fire-proof vaults, was required. In addition, a law library, counsels' rooms, a county council chamber and sometimes more than one courtroom were included. To add to this growing functional complexity, non-county groups were occasionally given the opportunity to acquire space in the court house, and as result town governments, civic markets and a host of private agencies became tenants. By taking this route councils achieved three objectives: they constructed a building even more monumental in scale than would otherwise be possible; they obtained financial assistance in the form either of a sharing of costs, or rental income; and they increased public access to the court house, thereby making it truly a community building. To make room for this increased use, the jail was usually housed in a separate structure, or at least placed in a wing apart from the main building. What gradually emerged, then, was a combination county court house and administrative centre, sometimes with other governmental or private functions added.

While court houses grew in scale to house these additional functions, and while floor plans grew more complex, the exteriors also became more intricate in composition and more elaborate in detailing. This arose partly from the desires of architects, increasingly centred in Toronto; as well, it was an outcome of the emergence of sophisticated public attitudes towards the symbolic importance of public architecture. While these design trends had begun in larger centres during the 1820s and 1830s, they flowered fully after 1850.

In design terms, two court houses constructed in the 1840s, at Brockville and Niagara, mark the beginning of the emergence of these trends outside major cities. Significantly, both were the work of Toronto architects and their selection marks the beginning of a dominance of metropolitan architects in court house design. The first was built at Brockville according to plans by John G. Howard (Fig. 11). Constructed between 1841 and 1845, it replaced a brick structure, built in 1824, which had burned down. In its scale, sophisticated interior and detailing it looks ahead to the professional standards of the 1850s, but its exterior is Palladian in inspiration, reminiscent of Chewett's 1828 plan for the court house at Amherst. Howard, Toronto's leading architect during the 1830s and 1840s, actually employed a competition design he had prepared in 1838 for a court house in Toronto, which was never constructed. By the standards of the 1840s the plan was a generous one, with a double height courtroom of imposing proportions, a law library, a jail in a separate wing, and offices for barristers, as well as judges. It is almost certainly true, however, that had it been built ten years later, the Brockville court house would have included a council chamber and more extensive county office space.[21]

William Thomas's Niagara District Court House (Fig. 12) marks another step in the



11 Johnstown District (now the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville) Court House, Brockville, Ontario

Built 1841-45; John Howard, architect. Here Howard repeats the standard form, employed in earlier Palladian-inspired buildings, of a central porticoed section flanked by side wings, but the treatment is decidedly professional. The window surrounds and the portico are well handled, and the interior arrangements were well in advance of other judicial buildings of the period. The wooden statue above the pediment, named Sally Grant, has unfortunately been removed. (Metropolitan Toronto Library Board)

12 Niagara District Court House, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Built 1846-47; William Thomas, architect. Here the standard Palladian-inspired form is given a much freer interpretation. The side wings have been shortened and the decorative elements are more complex; note, for example, the use of elaborate window surrounds to distinguish the second-floor courtroom. (Public Archives Canada)

transition to larger and more sophisticated buildings after 1850. Its greater scale resulted from the inclusion of a wider range of functions, for the court house was initiated by the municipal authorities of the town of Niagara, rather than the district council. Niagara had long been the chief town in the district, but during the 1840s fears were raised that the growing town of St. Catharines, with its strategic position on the Welland Canal, would soon rival and surpass it. The new court house was part of a sustained attempt to maintain Niagara's position as the political centre of the district; as such the town's leaders were determined that the new building would be truly the centre of the community. In addition to the courtroom, offices and jail, they included a town hall and market in their specifications. Thomas's winning design was classical in inspiration, and hence was influenced by earlier traditions in court house design, but he treated these elements in a much freer manner, ignoring the rigid conventionality of earlier buildings by Howard and Chewett. Its multifunctionalism required a layout of considerable complexity (Figs 13 and 14), while the symbolic demands of Niagara's leaders required an elaborately finished interior; in all of these respects Thomas's work at Niagara foreshadowed trends throughout Ontario in the decades ahead.[22]

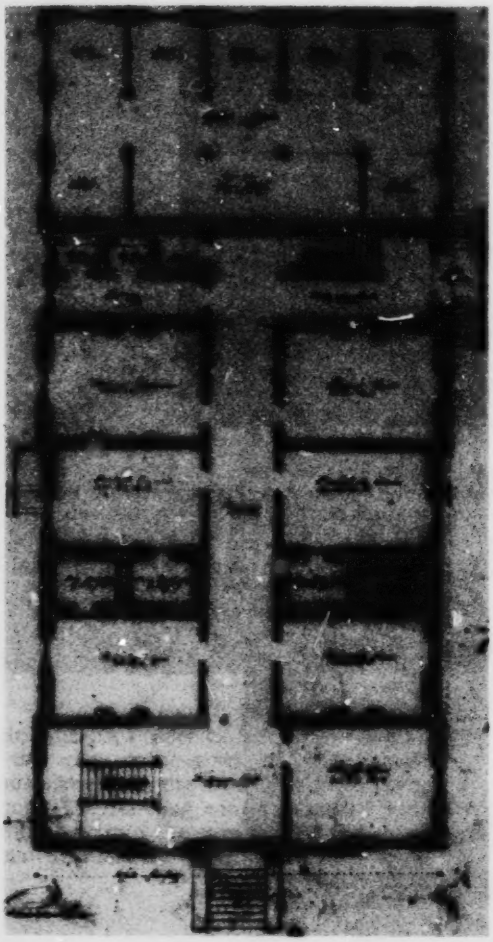
In 1852 the boom in court house construction began in earnest, and within the next four years new buildings were begun at Toronto, Brantford, Owen Sound, St. Thomas, Whitby, Milton, Windsor, Welland, Kingston and Cobourg. After 1856 the pace slowed somewhat, but court houses continued to be built in this new pattern of sophistication until the end of the century.

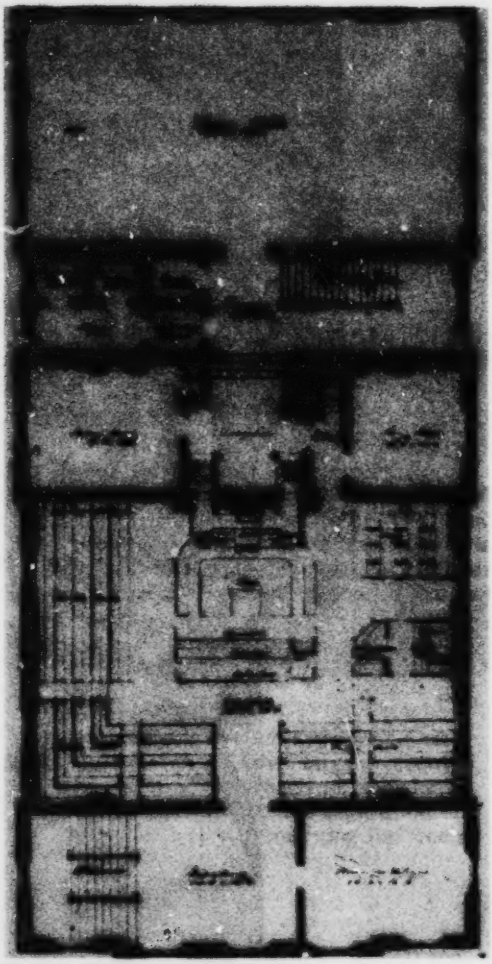
Not all of these buildings conformed rigidly to a pattern of monumental scale and elaborate detailing; rather the trend emerges fitfully from area to area. In some instances, either because the population of the county was small or its hinterland undeveloped, court houses of modest proportions continued to be built, but even here higher standards of architectural expertise were at work. Three examples of this type are the Kent County Court House at Chatham built between 1848 and 1850, and the court houses at Pembroke and Napanee, both begun in 1864.

The Chatham example is the simplest of the three, designed by William Thomas in the Classical Revival style he used so successfully at Niagara. Pembroke's court house (Fig. 15), on the other hand, harks back somewhat; it is similar in style and plan to the earlier vernacular court house at Perth (Fig. 6), but even in this instance some advance has been made; the exterior is more carefully finished and the ornamental detailing is more elaborate and assured. The Napanee building (Fig. 16) is strikingly original in its approach. Designed by Kingston architect John Power, its mixing of Palladian forms and Italianate details is a perfect reflection of the eclecticism of post-1850 court house design.[23]

These examples aside, the majority of court houses built after 1850 were functionally more diverse and architecturally more sophisticated. A relatively early example of this more elaborate type is the York County Court House built on Adelaide St. East in Toronto in 1852-53 (Fig. 17). The court house was built to replace an earlier one dating from 1824 which had become too small to meet the needs of both the courts and the county government. The building's architect was the county engineer, F.W. Cumberland, who had come to Toronto from England in 1847. The court house, designed in a severe classical style, made economic use of the restricted urban site. Taking the traditional form of centre block and flanking wings, Cumberland altered the traditional balance to create what amounted to three joined pavilions, each of which housed various functions.

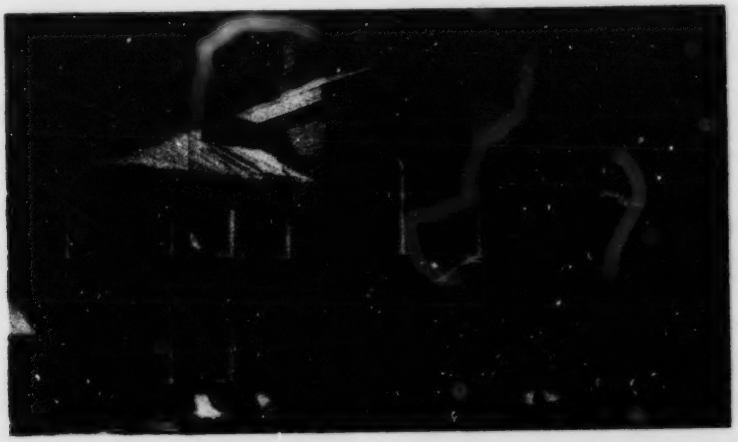
> The ground floor of the centre block housed, besides the main entrance hall, a council chamber and six committee rooms. In the wings were offices for the County Court, the County Treasurer, the Clerk of the Council, the Division Court, the Clerk of the Peace, and the Sheriff. Each office was furnished with two rooms and a vault.
>
> The second floor of the building housed three court rooms; the criminal court in the centre and the civil and county courts in the wings. A private circular staircase which has survived to the present day provided the Judge and Crown counsel with access to the criminal court from the rear of the building. The second floor plan also contained various jury rooms, a Judge's chambers, a room for prisoners awaiting





13, 14 Niagara District Court House

See also Figure 12. *Left*, ground floor; *right*, first floor. The variety of functions planned for the Niagara District Court House required an interior plan far more complicated than in most earlier examples. Several stairways give access to the different parts of the building; civic functions - the town hall, market and municipal offices - have been discreetly placed to the rear, while the district offices and courtroom have been prominently situated and are easily accessible. (Archives of Ontario)



15 Renfrew County Court House, Pembroke, Ontario
Built 1864-67; architect unknown. The standard form survived longest in comparatively remote parts of the province. The absence of a portico simplifies the exterior, but in compensation the architect has treated the stonework with great care. The elaborate window surrounds, stringcourse and corner quoins all provide decorative elements to an otherwise rather plain facade. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

16 Lennox and Addington County Court House, Napanee, Ontario
Built 1864-65; John Power, architect. The standard form is presented here in a markedly different dress. The portico is distinguished by tall arches, supported by slender paired pillars. The arches are repeated, on a reduced scale, in the Italianate windows on the second floor. These light the courtroom, which maintains its traditional position. Altogether the composition is a delightfully original reworking of traditional court house forms. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

17 York County Court House, Toronto, Ontario
Built 1852-53; Frederick W. Cumberland and Thomas Ridout, architects. The limitations of a site in the city core, a tight budget and the functional requirements of the largest county administration in the province forced the architects to develop a different approach to traditional forms. The flanking wings are really separate pavilions; this division reflected the separation of functions within the interior. The centre section survives as a theatre, but one wing has been demolished and the other much modified. (Public Archives Canada)

trial and a Grand Jury room. The Grand Jury room was at the front of the building and faced Adelaide St. On the upper or the third floor were nine offices to be used by the county or rented. The basement included, besides the fuel and furnace rooms, four rooms for the housekeeper.[24]

As the century wore on, court houses of this complex, administratively oriented type grew more common, especially in the prosperous farming areas of southwestern Ontario. Among the surviving court houses of this scale are those at Orangeville (1880), Stratford (1885, Fig. 18), Woodstock (1890, Fig. 19), and the two court houses at Brantford (Fig. 20) and St. Thomas, both of which were expanded at the end of the nineteenth century.

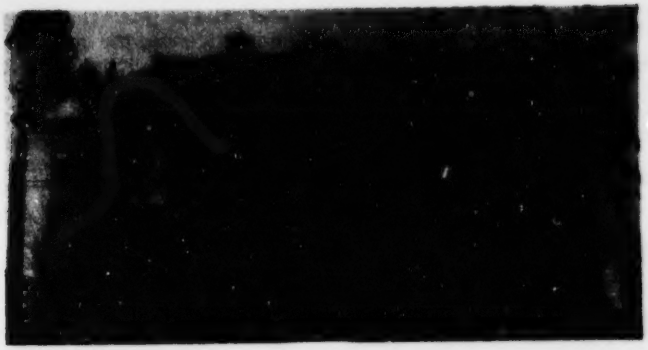
Among the most elaborately detailed buildings of this type is the multi-functional Northumberland County Court House at Cobourg (Fig. 21). It is also the most extravagant example of the judicial building as symbol, for the Cobourg court house is a monument to the high expectations of the town's municipal council, engendered by the opening up of the region north of the town by the Peterborough and Cobourg Railway. Like officials at Niagara, the town's leadership sought to express in architectural terms the

18 Perth County Court House, Stratford, Ontario

Built 1885-87; George F. Durand, architect. What a contrast visually with earlier court houses! In typical late Victorian fashion, the architect has presented a facade that is vigorous but controlled in its combinations of colours, shapes, textures and architectural elements. Terra-cotta panels, plum-coloured Credit Valley sandstone, and white brick were combined with the original red woodwork in a panoply of colour. Ponderous classicism has been superseded by a vigorous, but still stately, Victorian eclecticism. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

19 Oxford County Court House, Woodstock, Ontario

Built 1890-92; R.T. Brooks, Cuthbertson and Fowler, architects. In a particularly confused building process, three architects and two builders were employed in the construction of this building. Even so, the result is a marked success, and the county has wisely maintained it without additions or disfiguring alterations. Irregularity and variety are again the key elements in late Victorian court house design in Ontario. (Archives of Ontario)



20 Brant County Court House, Brantford, Ontario

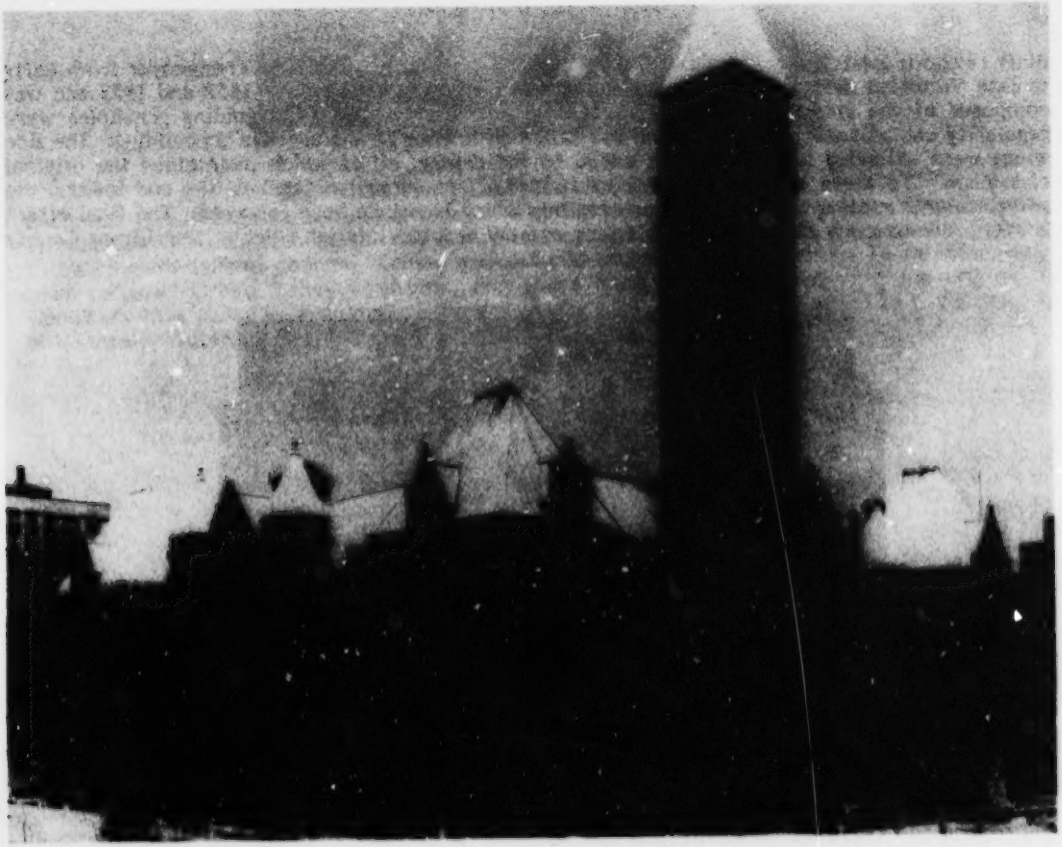
Built 1852-53; John Turner, architect. This building illustrates subtly the changeover from early to late Victorian design. The original building was constructed between 1852 and 1853 and was composed of the standard format of centre with flanking wings. The guiding principles were regularity and balance. In 1886 Turner was called on to enlarge and upgrade his building. The side wings were extended and a pediment added to the centre, all of which maintained the original classicism. To these the architect added decidedly late Victorian touches: the end towers, the polychromatic roofing tiles and the iron cresting, which has since been removed. The final effect is still predominately classical, with a strong overlay of late Victorian eclecticism. (Brant County Museum)

21 Victoria Hall, Cobourg, Ontario

Built 1856-60; Kivas Tully, architect. Confident of a prosperous future the town of Cobourg began planning a town hall in 1852. The scale and cost of their concept grew as their pride and expectations for the future increased. The result was Victoria Hall, widely recognized as one of Canada's finest public buildings. Like the Niagara District Court House (Fig. 12) it combined municipal and county offices with judicial facilities, but in Cobourg the cost, scale and elaborate decoration were much greater. (Ontario Department of Industry and Tourism)

aspirations of the community; the exuberance of their vision may be judged by their decision gradually to increase the maximum cost of the building from five to twenty thousand pounds. Designed by Kivas Tully of Toronto, the resulting building was everything the town fathers could have wished for, and more; it remains one of the country's most important public buildings. Its near acre of floor space included extensive courtroom facilities, a concert hall, town offices, rooms for the Masonic Lodge, and many offices for county, municipal and private use. Unfortunately, in spite of its magnificence, the court house was not a financial success; it plunged the town into near bankruptcy when the expected economic boom collapsed with the failure of the railway.[25]

One final building illustrates the culmination of the trends in design and complexity of layout between 1850 and 1914. The Toronto City Hall and York County Court House (Fig. 22) was begun in 1889 and was not completed until 1900; it is thus the last court house built in southern Ontario before 1914. Designed by



22 Toronto City Hall and York County Court House, Toronto, Ontario
Built 1889-1900; E.J. Lennox, architect. The last court house built in southern Ontario before 1914 was also the culmination of late Victorian design trends. No civic buiding in Canada matched it in scale, cost or sophistication of design. (City of Toronto Archives)

23, 24 Toronto City Hall and York County Court House

See also Figure 22. Lennox's final drawings for the front *(upper)* and side *(lower)* elevations illustrate the elements of late Victorian design - variety and irregularity - at their best. The style is Richardsonian Romanesque, the model is H.H. Richardson's Allegany County Court House in Pittsburgh, freely adapted. The signatures in the upper right-hand corner belong to the various contractors, affirming that these were the plans upon which their tenders were based. (City of Toronto Archives)

25 Toronto City Hall and York County Court House
See also Figure 22. Lennox's design included a vast array of decorative work on both the interior and the exterior. The use of New Brunswick sandstone for trim enabled the carvers to decorate the exterior with a range of fanciful stone ornamentation, almost all of which survives. This photograph shows the scale and detailing of the work involved; a stone gargoyle still glowers over downtown traffic from the bell tower. (City of Toronto Archives)

E.J. Lennox, its Richardsonian Romanesque styling placed it well in the forefront of design in Canada (Figs 23 and 24). The use of New Brunswick sandstone for trim enabled the carvers to decorate the exterior with an array of fanciful detailing (Fig. 25), while its prominent siting and massive scale gave it a monumentality unmatched by any judicial building in Canada.[26]

Northern Court Houses

Because of its small and scattered population the northern parts of Ontario were not given county status, and the responsibility for the construction and maintenance of court facilities rested with the provincial government. All of these buildings were designed by the Department of Public Works under the direction of the chief architect; this position was held by noted Toronto architect Kivas Tully between 1867 and 1896, when he was succeeded by his assistant, Frank R. Heakes.

Designing for and building in the north posed special problems for the department, and each chief architect developed quite different standards of design for the structures constructed during his tenure. The process of construction, too, was difficult; before the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, materials often had to be imported by steamer and coupled with high wages this made construction unexpectedly expensive. Qualified contractors who were willing to take on court house construction were rare, and the department was occasionally forced to purchase the materials and build the court house itself by day labour.[27]

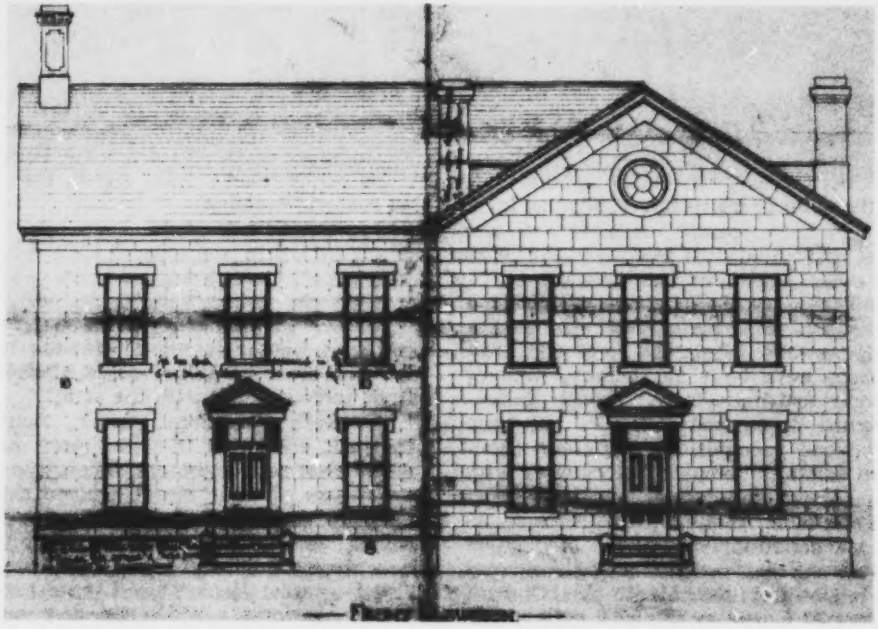
In terms of scale, materials and sophistication of design, the pattern of development in the north parallels the evolution of court

houses in southern Ontario. The first court houses were modest, designed to accommodate the judicial process at minimal cost. The first was built at Sault Ste. Marie in 1865. Except in the largest towns these initial buildings were log or frame in construction; by the 1880s, however, these were increasingly superseded by brick structures. Unfortunately, none of these early buildings survives in a recognizable form, but an 1884 drawing of the Port Arthur (later Prince Arthur) court house shows a solid stone building of balanced proportions, almost entirely lacking in ornamentation (Fig. 26).[28]

As soon as the province felt it a priority these pioneer court houses were replaced by more substantial buildings; in most instances the growth of the region had been so rapid that these more elaborate facilities were long overdue. Between 1888 and 1900 new court houses were provided for North Bay, Gore Bay and Bracebridge, while the 1871 structure at Parry Sound was almost completely rebuilt.[29]

Except for the use of stone at Gore Bay these four were modestly scaled buildings constructed of red brick. All are excellent examples of the work of the Department of Public Works in the north under the tenure of Kivas Tully. Ornamental detail was limited mainly to simple decorative brickwork; occasionally ironwork was applied sparingly, notably at Bracebridge. In contrast to contemporary structures in southern Ontario, the courtroom, offices and jail were combined in a single building.

In 1896 Tully was succeeded by his less well known assistant, Frank R. Heakes. Under his superintendence the Department of Public



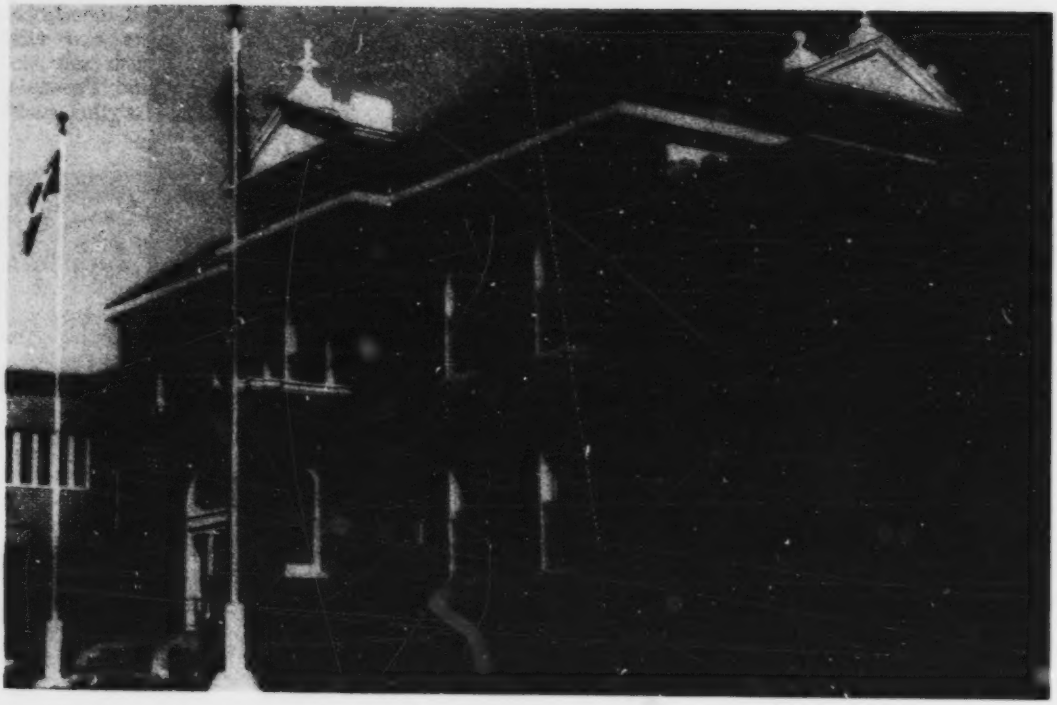
26 Thunder Bay District Court House, Prince Arthur's Landing (now Thunder Bay), Ontario Built 1876-77 (demolished); Department of Public Works, Kivas Tully, chief architect. This plan illustrates the simplicity of Tully's early work in northern Ontario. The section to the right was constructed between 1876 and 1877 while the section to the left was added in 1884. The earlier building closely resembles the Manitoulin District Court House at Gore Bay (Fig. 27). Tully's handling of detail is sparse but crisp. (Archives of Ontario)

27 Manitoulin District Court House, Gore Bay, Ontario
Built 1889; Department of Public Works, Kivas Tully, chief architect. Later in his career Tully's approach to northern court houses remained essentially the same. Designs were simple, with a minimum of detailing. At Gore Bay he virtually repeated his earlier design for the Thunder Bay District Court House, but chose to build in local stone rather than brick. Again, the effect is plain to the point of austerity. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

Works embarked on an extensive programme of construction, differing markedly in quality from Tully's work. Between 1900 and 1914 court houses were built at Sudbury, Kenora, Fort Frances and Haileybury. Though Haileybury's burned down, and Sudbury's has been altered beyond recognition, sufficient documentation exists to compare Tully's work with Heakes's. Under the former, northern court houses were built as simply and cheaply as decorum and function would allow. Though its stone construction is unique among examples of Tully's designs, the Manitoulin District Court House at Gore Bay (Fig. 27) reflects his approach to the design of northern court houses. It is a starkly austere building, two storeys high, with a pitched-roof gable front. Rectangular, its facade is simply composed, its main entrance flanked by a single window on each side decorated only by ashlar lug sills and caps. The flat stone surfaces are simply dressed; the entrance is highlighted by pilasters and a fanlight, both in wood. The upper storey is lighted by three windows to match the first-floor bays; an oculus window with a stone surround decorates the attic.

Heakes's northern court houses, in contrast, are larger in scale, more monumental in treatment and more decorative in ornamentation. The architect evolved a standard formula reworked for each district building. All of his court houses were red brick, also two storeys high. To add individuality and visual interest Heakes used stone extensively for foundations, window and door surrounds, stringcourses and pilasters. Wood accents, in the form of heavy bracketing, porches and cupolas were also employed; several of his court houses sported a bold cornice of galvanized iron.

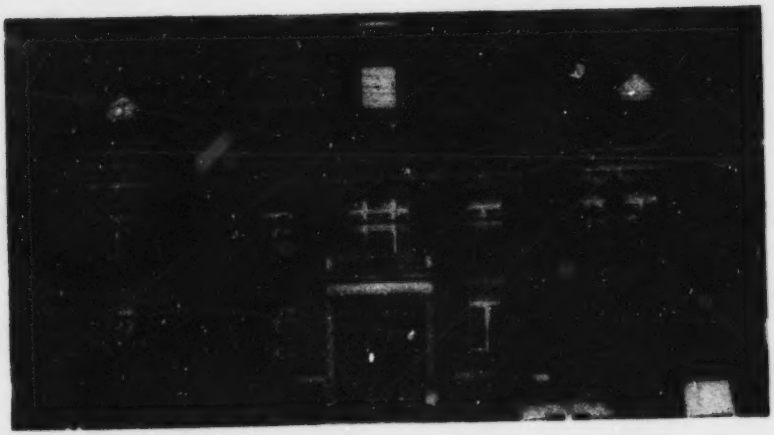
Heakes's designs also attempted to add to the symbolic significance of the northern



28 Muskoka District Court House, Bracebridge, Ontario
Built 1899-1900; Department of Public Works, Frank R. Heakes, chief architect. This is Heakes's first design for a northern court house, and as such is a transitional building. Tully's influence remains, and though the facade is more elaborate, the detailing is still fairly simple. The building is wider and therefore more impressive; Heakes has added his own design touches, however, in the form of cast-iron cornices, employed for decorative, rather than functional, reasons. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

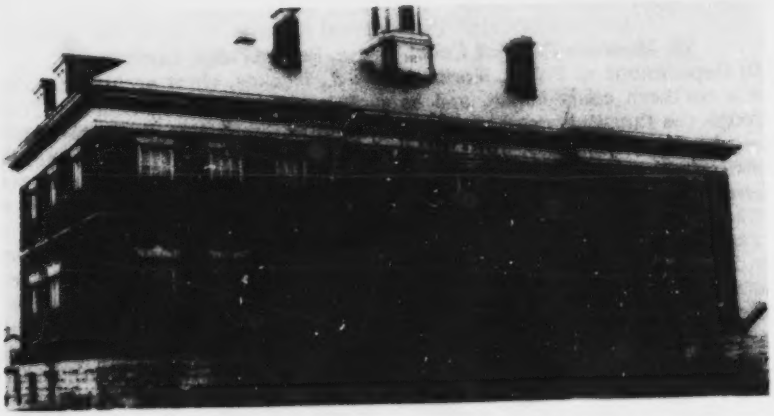
court house. He obtained more expansive sites and often included a ceremonial driveway or park to give added weight to the judicial building. An early example of the architect's approach is Heakes's first court house design, erected at Bracebridge (Fig. 28). Constructed between 1899 and 1900 it is two storeys high and five, rather than Tully's normal three, bays across; perhaps still under Tully's influence, Heakes used stone only for the foundation, but compensated with extensive use of decorative brickwork and elaborate cast-iron cornices.

By 1910, when he began the court house at Kenora (Fig. 29), Heakes had fully developed his approach to the northern court house. This process may be illustrated as well by the Rainy River District building at Fort Frances (Fig. 30), begun three years later.[30] Nine bays wide, this latter building employs Heakes's full decorative vocabulary: stone was used extensively for the portico, stringcourses and the door and window sills and heads. These brought textural and visual contrast to the brickwork, which included quoins and other decorative touches. A wooden cupola provided



29 Kenora District Court House, Kenora, Ontario

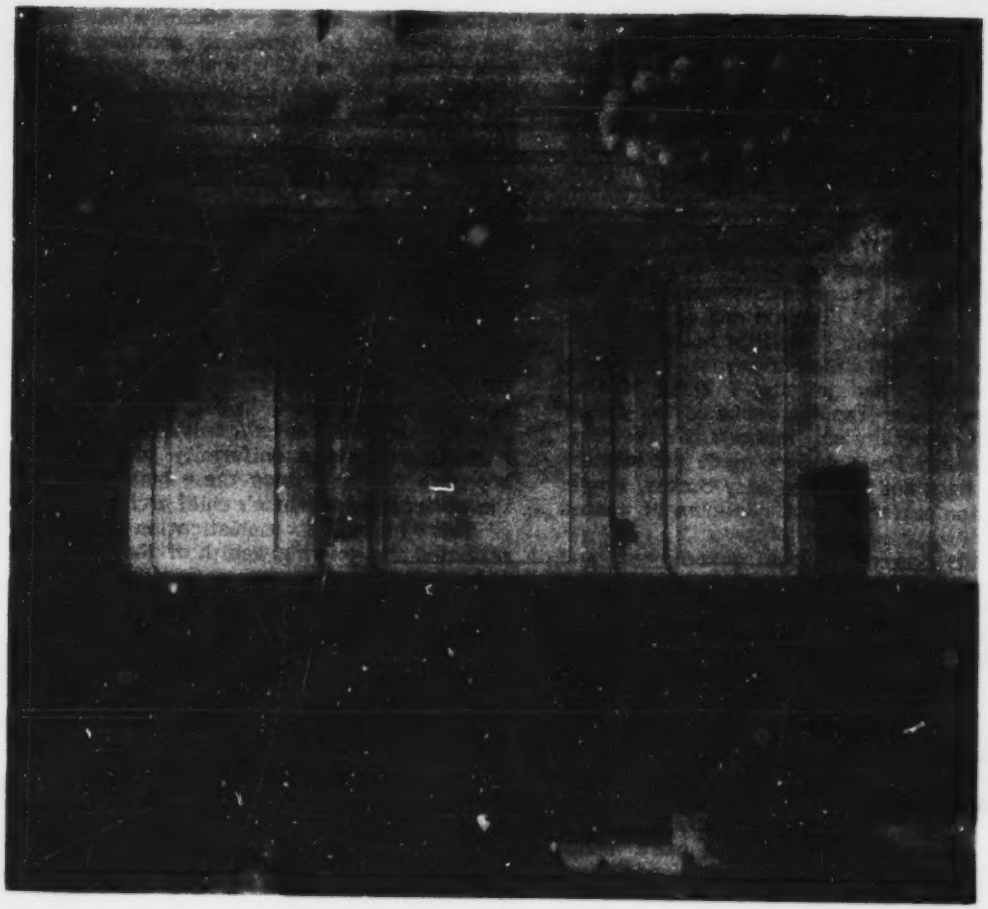
Built 1910-11; Department of Public Works, Frank R. Heakes, chief architect. By this point Heakes has escaped from the Tully influence and developed an approach distinctively his own. He has turned the building so that its facade is wide and therefore the effect is more monumental. Decorative elements are more elaborate and more widely used - heavy bracketing along the roofline, stone for window and door surrounds, a wood portico and balcony, and an octagonal cupola are examples. The siting, overlooking a lake, is both picturesque and effective. (The Lake of the Woods Museum)



30 Rainy River District Court House, Fort Frances, Ontario

Built 1913-14; Department of Public Works, Frank R. Heakes, chief architect. This is the last judicial building constructed in the north before 1914 and it shows how a standard approach can be adopted to suit individual sites and circumstances. In form it is similar to the court house at Kenora (Fig. 29) and identical to the one at Haileybury (1923-24), but variations in siting and detailing give each a measure of individuality. Heakes employed the same window heads in all three buildings, but varied the design of the portico and cupola. Overall the effect is much more monumental than any of Tully's work. (Public Archives of Manitoba)

additional light to the courtroom below. His site was expansive, approached by a semi-circular driveway. The interiors of all of Heakes's buildings were also more complex than Tully's, with more elaborate decoration. Most boasted a spacious entrance hall with a grand staircase, wide corridors, generous office space, a double height courtroom and skylights; polished wood and plasterwood were also used extensively (Fig. 31).



31 Algoma District Court House, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Built 1919-22; Department of Public Works, Frank H. Heakes, chief architect. Though constructed after 1914 this building is included to illustrate the degree of interior decoration employed by Heakes. The oak woodwork is rich, while the ceiling and wall details are plaster. The pilasters, purely decorative, are the most elaborate of all the orders, the Corinthian; chandeliers and wall brackets provided artificial light. Larger budgets, access to standardized manufactured materials, and greater functional demands permitted Heakes to construct such elegant court houses. (Archives of Ontario)

Conclusion

Four interrelated factors appear to have guided the evolution of the court house as a building type in Ontario: the increasingly active and significant role of the district and county as an agency of local government in the province; the growth in sophistication in public standards in civic architecture; the increasingly important role of the professional architect in the planning of the court house; and, finally, the economic expansion which permitted local governments in the south, and the provincial government in the north, to erect judicial structures that were functionally and symbolically suitable.

In their increasing complexity both in function and plan, court houses reflected the important role that districts and counties had in local government. The first buildings were small in scale and simple in layout, with space for courtroom and jail use. These pioneer structures were rapidly replaced by larger buildings, generally only marginally more complex in plan. These designs made the most of natural light and provided easy access, simple circulation patterns and a minimum of wasted space.

As the powers of local governments and public demands for greater service increased, court houses became even larger in scale and more complex in spatial arrangement. Larger and more formal council chambers, a law library, committee rooms, increased office space for a growing county bureaucracy, and amenities such as fire-proof vaults gradually became essential components in any court house. In some cases, non-county functions were included, such as private offices, a town hall or a civic market; this centralized community services and provided a more monumental structure. To provide additional security, jails were usually removed from the court house and placed either in a separate building, or in a subsidiary wing. One major exception to this last trend is found in buildings constructed in northern Ontario by the provincial Department of Public Works; here for reasons of cost and efficiency, jails continued to be included within the confines of the court house at least until the 1920s.

As buildings grew in size, they also became architecturally more sophisticated. This resulted partly from the increased involvement of trained architects. The earliest structures were simple in design, virtually without ornamentation. These buildings were quickly superseded by vernacular-styled structures of a decidedly domestic cast, whose designers were either amateurs or master builders. The first court houses whose plans were prepared by a trained architect were constructed in the 1820s, and the hand of the professional became increasingly evident in the 1830s and 1840s. Men such as John Howard, Kivas Tully, William Thomas and Frederick Cumberland received their initial training in England, and it is therefore not surprising that their early buildings, as those of master builders like Archibald Fraser, echo with varying degrees of professionalism eighteenth century English civil architecture. Though both the vernacular and classical styles continued to be used occasionally after 1850, professionally designed buildings became the rule and styles were more freely and eclectically employed. During the second half of the nineteenth century, only in court houses in the north did a uniformity of style and approach develop, since these buildings were the work of the province's chief architects.

This increased sophistication in style reflected the growing wealth of the province, and the heightened appreciation for the symbolic, as well as the functional, importance of the court house. In laying the corner-stone for the Essex County Court House in 1854, the warden, S.S. MacDonell, noted that this new structure was the result of "the most confident hope that soon the County would be filled with inhabitants and attain the most advanced state of prosperity." A fine court house meant more than the achievement of material prosperity; "the erection of Halls of Justice and Gaols," he noted, "was a distinctive characteristic of a high state of civilization."[31] Their existence was a symbol of the transition from a pioneer to a progressive society. In opening the York County Court House nearly half a century later, Toronto's mayor, John Shaw, expressed an even stronger version of the concept of judicial building as symbol. "Great buildings symbolize a people's deeds and aspirations," he insisted; "whenever a nation has a conscience and a mind, it recorded the evidence of its being in the highest of all arts. Where no such monuments

are to be found," he continued, "the mental and moral nature of the people have not been above the faculties of the beasts." The enormous cost of a new civic building, therefore, was justified, for the building reflected the immense wealth, as well as the moral and social progress, of the community that constructed it.[32]

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF THE OLD TERRITORIAL NORTH WEST AND THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

G.E. Mills, R.R. Rostecki, C.J. Taylor and Margaret Carter

Territorial Courts and Court Houses on the Prairies Before 1907

Preliminary Administration of Justice - the Hudson's Bay Company Era (1670-1870)

Between 1670 and 1870, administration of Rupert's Land, the region lying west of Lake Superior and encompassing much of present-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, remained vested with the Hudson's Bay Company under the terms of its original charter. Before 1830 law enforcement in this vaguely defined area was confined to the settlement of internal disputes and infractions among company employees. Minor cases were dealt with summarily by local company officers, while more serious offences were sent to York Factory or England for trial.

The rise of rival trading companies brought the Hudson's Bay Company's legal authority into question after the turn of the nineteenth century and prompted the imperial Parliament to pass legislation authorizing the courts of Lower Canada (and subsequently those of Upper Canada) to try offences committed in the area.[1] Instead of clarifying matters, this action created an ambiguous situation, with the Hudson's Bay Company refusing to accept the implied invalidity of its jurisdictional claims as granted in the 1670 charter. The issue was not resolved until 1821, when the company's full jurisdiction was reaffirmed following its absorption of the rival Northwest Company. During the interim period, Lord Selkirk had established his colony at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. The presence of a "civilian" population prompted the company to enact an ordinance for the administration of justice as early as 1815, but no effective steps were taken to establish an organizational framework until 1822, when the Council of Assiniboia was established.[2] Judicial authority was vested in the governor in council, while a rudimentary police force consisting of a high constable, two bailiffs and a group of part-time constables was inaugurated, the costs of which were to be borne by the Selkirk estate.

The judicial and administrative framework remained primitive until 1835, when ownership of the Red River Colony reverted to the Hudson's Bay Company. The area was subsequently divided into four judicial districts (subsequently reduced to three in 1837), each of which was presided over by a magistrate selected from the ranks of the Legislative Council. These appointees were empowered to try minor civil and criminal cases, while a Supreme Tribunal Court composed of governor and council was established at Fort Garry to deal with more serious cases and appeals.[3] Implementation of taxes on imports and exports defrayed the costs of administering the court system and also financed the formation of a sixty-man police force and establishment of a combination court house and jail within the walls of Fort Garry. A further modification occurred in 1839 when the post of recorder of Rupert's Land was established in response to the need for qualified legal expertise within the administration. Although technically only members of the Legislative Council, appointees to this position subsequently assumed control of legal affairs within the territory for the remainder of the Hudson's Bay Company administration.[4]

Although a rudimentary court system was thus operational during the pre-1870 period, its effectiveness was severely limited by the absence of an effective means of law enforcement. The police force established at Red River in 1835 had disintegrated and been disbanded by 1845; subsequent attempts at replacing it with voluntary or militia units proved unsuccessful. An inevitable deterioration in the judicial process ensued as it became apparent that no means of enforcing court decisions existed. This culminated during the trial of Guillaume Sayer and three other métis for illicit fur trading in 1849. A mass demonstration with threats of violence

succeeded in obtaining the discharge of Sayer and his companions and effectively demonstrated that the company's authority could no longer be enforced by law.[5] For the remaining twenty years, the council continued to govern, though "there was no oppression and a sort of tired paternalism prevailed which did not ruffle even the more rebellious elements."[6]

Pre-1870 Court Facilities

Before the reorganization of the administrative and judicial structure in 1835, most offences committed in Rupert's Land were dealt with at the closest trading post by the factor in charge. The first "permanent" court facilities consisted of an adapted building within the walls of Fort Garry which was converted into a combination courtroom and jail during the 1830s.[7] In 1844 a smaller wooden structure was erected outside the walls of the fort to serve the same purposes, the ostensible reason being the dangers and inconvenience created by the continuing presence of the jail facilities within the fort. This utilitarian structure was subsequently put to a variety of uses, in addition to its court and jail functions. Meetings of the Council of Assiniboia were held in it, in addition to church services and public meetings.[8] The building remained in continuous use as the sole court facilities within Rupert's Land for the duration of the Hudson's Bay Company administration, and housed such major events as the Guillaume Sayer trial and meetings surrounding the Riel affairs of 1869-70.

Physically, the building appears to have consisted of two rooms divided by a central corridor, the right half containing the jail and the left half the courtroom. Furnishings in the latter were confined to a judge's bench, jury box, clerk's table which saw additional service as counsel's table, witness box and an elevated prisoner's dock. Spectators were confined to a crowded space behind a metal railing.[9]

Northwest Territories, 1870-1905

Acquisition of Rupert's Land and the adjacent Indian Territory by the Canadian Government was followed by division of the region into the Province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Although governmental and court machinery were quickly installed in the new province, implementation of similar institutions for the Territories was held in abeyance for another three years. During the interim, several justices of the peace were appointed to try minor cases, while major offences were referred to the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba. Reports on existing conditions in the region were commissioned by the Dominion Government in 1869 and 1873. Both reported the absence of law and order and urgent need for the establishment of a police force both to uphold court decisions and to act as mediators with the established twenty-five thousand Indians native to the area.[10]

The Dominion Government responded to the need for a closely integrated system of courts and law enforcement in the Northwest Territories in 1873 by passing an act providing for the appointment of stipendiary magistrates and the creation of a three hundred man mounted police force with exceptional powers. Members of this force, to be known as the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), were empowered as ex officio justices of the peace, giving them authority to both apprehend and try offenders, thereby radically simplifying the judicial process. Although the act provided for the appointment of civilian magistrates, this did not occur until 1877. Instead, these powers were temporarily conferred upon the commissioner and assistant commissioner of the NWMP by an 1874 amendment. Two stipendiary magistrates sitting together were empowered to render summary verdicts with sentences to a maximum of seven years without the intervention of a jury. More serious cases were referred to the Court of Queen's Bench, Manitoba, which was also given jurisdiction over appellate court functions for the Territories.[11] Historian R.C. Macleod has noted that the powers exercised by the NWMP during the years immediately following its establishment were without precedent in the annals of British law enforcement.

> The NWMP...were a radical departure from the British pattern of law enforcement. They were centrally controlled, they had certain military characteristics like the French gendarmes, and...were very much

involved in administrative activities and acted in the capacity of such functionaries of the civil law as bailiffs and sheriffs as well. In one very important respect the Mounted Police had powers which exceeded those of European police; they acted as magistrates and passed judgement on criminals as well as apprehending them.[12]

The first Legislative Council for the Northwest Territories was appointed in 1877. Three members of this council were in turn designated as stipendiary magistrates, establishing a direct link between courts and administration which was to persist until the council's replacement by an elected assembly in 1888. Several significant amendments were made to the judicial system in the same year. The Manitoba court's jurisdiction over superior court matters was withdrawn; henceforth a magistrate sitting with two justices of the peace was empowered to try capital offences subject to review in Ottawa.[13] The Manitoba court continued, however, to serve as appellate court for the Territories until 1886.

Despite the establishment of this nucleus of a territorial court, the majority of minor cases continued to be tried by the NWMP throughout the territorial period. Macleod states, "Until 1905 and after...the majority of all criminal cases continued to be tried by Mounted Police Affairs. In isolated areas the force remained the entire criminal-justice system. This was not a situation that the police particularly relished. Judicial duties were time consuming and involved inordinate quantities of paper work. But as long as the numbers of civilian JPs were insufficient, the police had no choice."[14] As the only jail facilities were located within the forces' various divisional headquarters and posts, court sittings were conducted within these buildings.

The initial phase of settlement in the Northwest Territories began with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885. Major modifications were accordingly made to the existing administrative and court systems to accommodate the anticipated increase in population. These included the division of the Territories into the four provisional districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabasca in 1882 (the boundaries of these districts did not coincide with those of the later provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta). The number of stipendiary magistrates was subsequently increased to four with the addition of an appointee for the district of Alberta.[15]

A major overhaul of the judicial system followed in 1886 with passage of an act replacing the territorial court with the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. Henceforth the territorial government exercised full authority over the administration of civil justice, although jurisdiction over criminal justice remained vested in the attorney general of Canada, and in turn with the adjunctive North West Mounted Police force.[16] Former stipendiary magistrates were redesignated Supreme Court judges and assigned to four judicial districts coinciding with the 1882 provisional districts. Provision was also made for the hiring of sheriffs and clerks of the court in each district.[17] In addition, the appellate jurisdiction formerly extended to the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba was superseded by a Court En Banc with three territorial Supreme Court judges constituting a quorum. This terminated the Territories' judicial dependence on Manitoba, their neighbouring province. While minor modifications followed during the 1890s, the judicial system as implemented in 1886 remained substantially unchanged for the duration of the territorial period on the Prairies.

Territorial Court Houses, 1879-1905

Following the transfer of authority from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Government of Canada, construction of government buildings within the Northwest Territories fell under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Department of Public Works. The first of these appeared at Battleford, the initial territorial capital, in 1877, and comprised a brick registry office, quarters for the commandant of the NWMP, and houses for the lieutenant-governor, stipendiary magistrate, registrar and clerk of the council.[18] The first court facility to be erected under Canadian authority appears to have been an 1883-84 frame structure at Regina, although the building was not specifically designated for this purpose.[19]

Before passage of the 1886 act, public

1 **Fort Walsh, Northwest Territories (later Saskatchewan)**
Before court houses existed in the Northwest Territories, courts were held in the North West Mounted Police stockade buildings like the one in the background. Police officers, like those seen in the foreground of this picture taken in 1880, were all empowered to act as magistrates. (Public Archives Canada)

buildings in the remainder of the Territories consisted of the temporary barracks constructed by the NWMP, which were employed for court purposes as the need arose (Fig. 1). The task of procuring suitable court facilities began in earnest in 1886 with the construction of frame court houses at Regina and Prince Albert, as well as the adaptation of a portion of an existing immigrants' shed in Calgary for the same purpose. The latter was replaced by a substantial two-storey mansard-roofed building of locally quarried limestone in 1888 (Fig. 2).[20]

Ten court houses were constructed throughout the future provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta between 1890 and 1905. Their locations and sequence of construction were as follows:

Moosomin	(Assiniboia)	1890
Moose Jaw	"	1893
Lethbridge	(Alberta)	1892-94 (multi-purpose)
Wolseley	(Assiniboia)	1894
Regina	"	1894-95
Medicine Hat	"	1899
Yorkton	"	1902
Carnduff	"	1902
Fort MacLeod	(Alberta)	1902-4
Red Deer	"	1903-5

It is noteworthy that all of the buildings erected after 1886 were located in the two judicial districts of Assiniboia and Alberta, reflecting the areas of greatest settlement during the period. With the exception of the example of Regina, all were modest utilitarian designs with few distinguishing architectural features. Construction materials varied, the buildings of Moosomin, Yorkton, Medicine Hat and Carnduff being wood frame over rubble stone foundations, while the remainder were

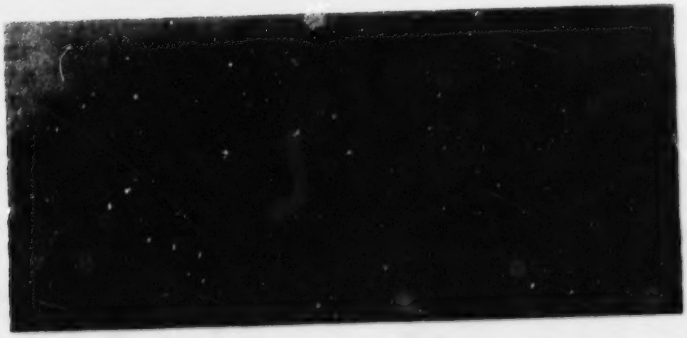
brick, occasionally with stone trim. The choice of materials was likely determined largely by the various communities' prospects for sustained growth. Investment in brick construction suggests that towns such as Wolseley, Moose Jaw, Fort MacLeod and Red Deer were regarded as stable settlements with little likelihood of decline. Construction of substantial brick government buildings in such communities may also have been viewed as tangible symbols of stability and permanence which would induce further private investment in the vicinity.

In the small community of Moosomin, Thomas Fuller's court house design was decidedly residential in appearance. The comparatively low cost of construction likely offered the government the option of easy sale or removal in the event the town did not continue to grow. But the court house quickly became obsolete with the advent of the settlement boom of the early 1900s and was accordingly phased out of service with the implementation of the provincial court system.

As the designated territorial capital, Regina's 1894 court house was considerably larger and more sophisticated than those in other communities, with the exception of Calgary. The three-storey brick building measured thirty-six by fifty-eight feet and featured an array of sandstone corbelling and trim, along with a projecting brick and stone pediment (Fig. 3).[21]

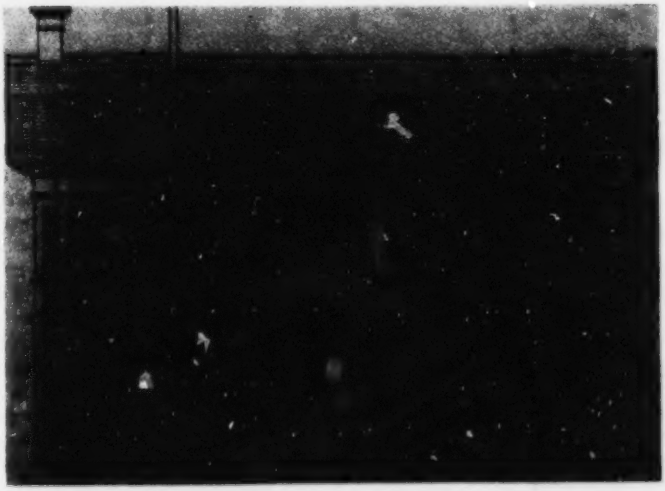
Pre-1897 designs were prepared under the direction of Chief Public Works Architect Thomas Fuller, while later ones were executed under his successor, David Ewart. Aside from wooden court houses at Yorkton and Carnduff which followed the same principles Fuller employed (Fig. 4), Ewart's tenure was marked by the introduction of a standard cross-gable plan. This was employed in three instances, at Medicine Hat, Fort MacLeod and Red Deer. The plan featured a ground floor allocated to various administrative offices, prisoners' cells and a guard room. The courtroom was placed in the central portion of the upper floor beneath the cross-gable area, with a public landing and witnesses' room at one end and offices for judge, jury and barristers at the other. The examples at Fort MacLeod and Red Deer were brick and measured fifty-three by thirty-four feet, while the slightly earlier frame variation at Medicine Hat was somewhat smaller.

With the close of the territorial period on the Prairies, existing court houses were sold to the newly formed provinces by the Dominion Government. Most saw brief periods of use within the respective provincial court systems before being replaced by larger structures or simply phased out of service. The sole exception occurred at Fort MacLeod, where the



2 Former Court House, Calgary, Northwest Territories (later Alberta)
Built 1888; Thomas Fuller, Dominion architect. This large building was the first court house built in the Northwest Territories by the Canadian Government. It was made of locally quarried sandstone, and replaced temporary court quarters set up in an immigrant shed. The building was demolished in 1958. (Glenbow-Alberta Institute)

3 Court House, Regina, Northwest Territories (later Saskatchewan)
Built 1894; Thomas Fuller, Dominion architect. Built in Regina after the "city" had been established as capital of the Territories, this is the most sophisticated of the early territorial court houses. Decorated by a brick and stone pediment, with twin arched windows, and banded by brick corbelling and stone trim, it nevertheless remained a rather plain building in an age of over-ornamentation. (Saskatchewan Archives)



4 Former Court House, Yorkton, Northwest Territories (later Saskatchewan)
Built 1902; David Ewart, Dominion architect. Both this court house and a similar one in Carnduff were constructed cheaply to basic houselike designs to facilitate replacement when necessary. (Public Archives Canada)

5 Court House, Fort MacLeod, Northwest Territories (later Alberta)
Built 1902-4; David Ewart, Dominion architect. The second of three court houses built to a similar plan, the Fort MacLeod Court House resembled buildings constructed by the federal Department of Public Works in Medicine Hat (1899) and Red Deer (1903-5). Today, only the Fort MacLeod example remains and it is in almost original condition. (Glenbow-Alberta Institute)

1903 structure was employed continuously as a court house until 1971 when it was converted into municipal offices. At the present time, two pre-1905 territorial court houses survive, one at Fort MacLeod (Fig. 5) which had undergone relatively few alterations, and another much-altered 1894 building at Wolseley, Saskatchewan, which was used as a jail, detention home and residence for the elderly since its closure as a court house at the inception of the province's judicial system in 1907.

Courts and Court Houses in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 1894-1930

Yukon

While the direct involvement of the Canadian Government with the administration of justice and provision of court facilities on the Prairies came to an end with the establishment of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, it experienced a second phase with the sudden growth of population in the Yukon shortly before the turn of the century. A detachment of North West Mounted Police was initially established at Forty Mile in 1894, shortly before the settlement of the Alaskan-Yukon boundary. Following the precedent established at the time of the force's inception in 1873, the detachment was empowered to both enforce all laws and dispense justice. The commanding officer presided as judge over important trials which were held in the NWMP barracks, while constables were designated as magistrates with authority to hold trials in outlying areas when and wherever necessary. This practice was continued after the discovery of gold on the Klondike in 1896, when the detachment re-established itself in a new post at Dawson, close to the diggings.

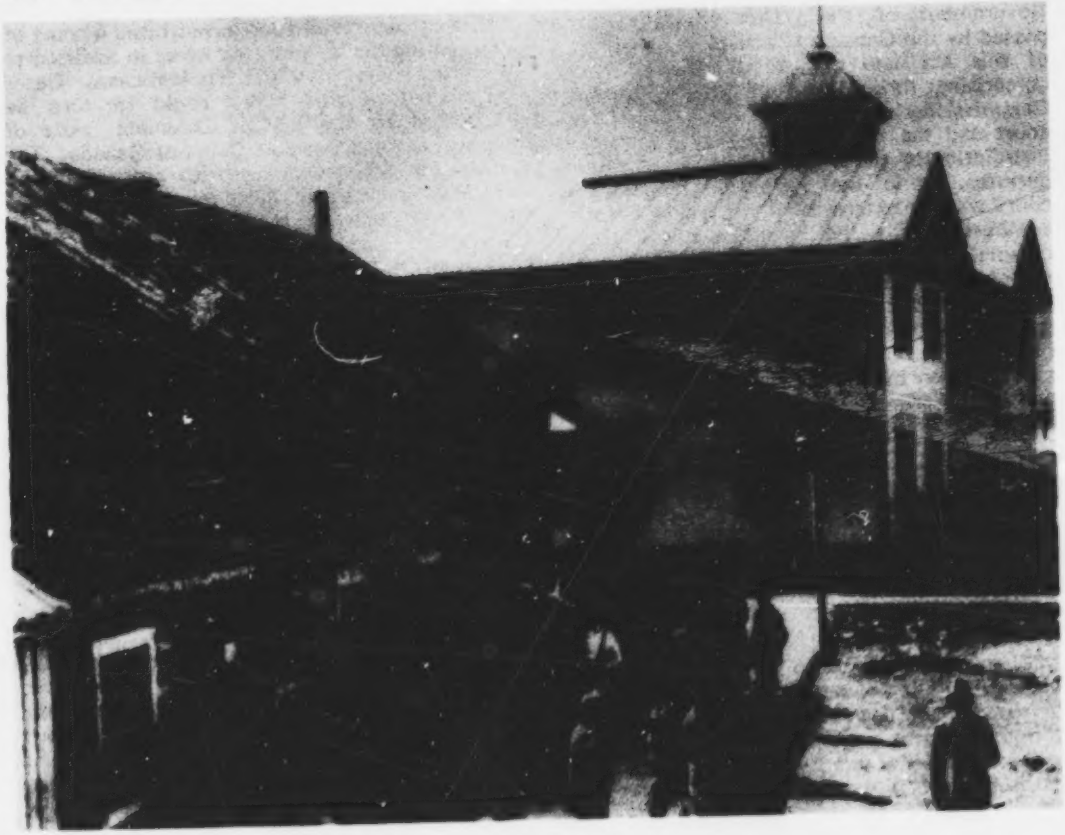
Although a commissioner was installed to oversee activity and protect the government's interests, the police continued to be responsible for judicial activities, a task that became increasingly difficult in the face of the spiralling population of goldseekers.[22] In response to the concern of Yukon administrators and the NWMP commissioners, the Dominion Government began to implement a proper judicial system for the Yukon in 1898.[23] The first magistrate was appointed in the spring of that year, shortly before the Act to Provide for the

Government of the Yukon Territory was passed by the Canadian Parliament. Section 5 of this act laid out a judicial framework comprising three levels of court: the Gold Commissioner's Court, police magistrate's court and the territorial or civil court. The jurisdiction of the first was limited to mining disputes, while the second or magistrates' court was an extension of the earlier system administered by the NWMP. Each district commanding officer of the force was empowered to appoint two of his constables as justices of the peace.[24] During the early gold-rush era this meant that magistrates' courts in the upper Yukon were headquartered at Tagish, on the Yukon River at Fort Selkirk, and in the principal commercial and administrative centre of Dawson. The judges of the third or territorial court constituted a court of appeal for the magistrates' court in addition to handling major civil and criminal cases. Cases tried before this court could in turn be appealed to the British Columbia court of appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. The need for permanent facilities arose with the establishment of this third level of court.

Accordingly, a temporary two-storey log structure was hastily completed for court sessions by November 1898. The building was rudimentary, constructed of locally procured, unseasoned timber and covered with a roof sheathed in sheet iron. It contained courtrooms for both territorial and police courts on the ground floor, with a law library, sheriff's office and judges' accommodations above (Fig. 7).[25]

6 Miner's Meeting

Before the arrival of the North West Mounted Police, justice was maintained in the early Yukon goldfields by the miner's meeting. Imported from the United States, this rough system of justice allowed any miner to post a public notice of an injustice, naming the time and place of a rendezvous. On the day appointed, every miner in the district appeared to hear both sides of the case. The verdict was given by majority vote: the penalty (since crimes were usually serious) was often banning the guilty party from the territory. Sometimes he was sent with supplies, sometimes not; if not, the sentence was equivalent to a sentence of death. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)



7 Court Houses, Dawson, Yukon Territory
Built 1898 and 1901; T.W. Fuller, architect of 1901 building. A study in contrast, this photograph illustrates well the distinction made between temporary and proper judicial quarters in a frontier area. Dawson's first court house *(left)* was hastily built of green lumber and ventilated by the pipe visible between the two centre doors. It contained judge's quarters on the second storey, and two courtrooms below. The building on the right replaced it once the Federal Government decided to fund the construction of public buildings. (Public Archives Canada)

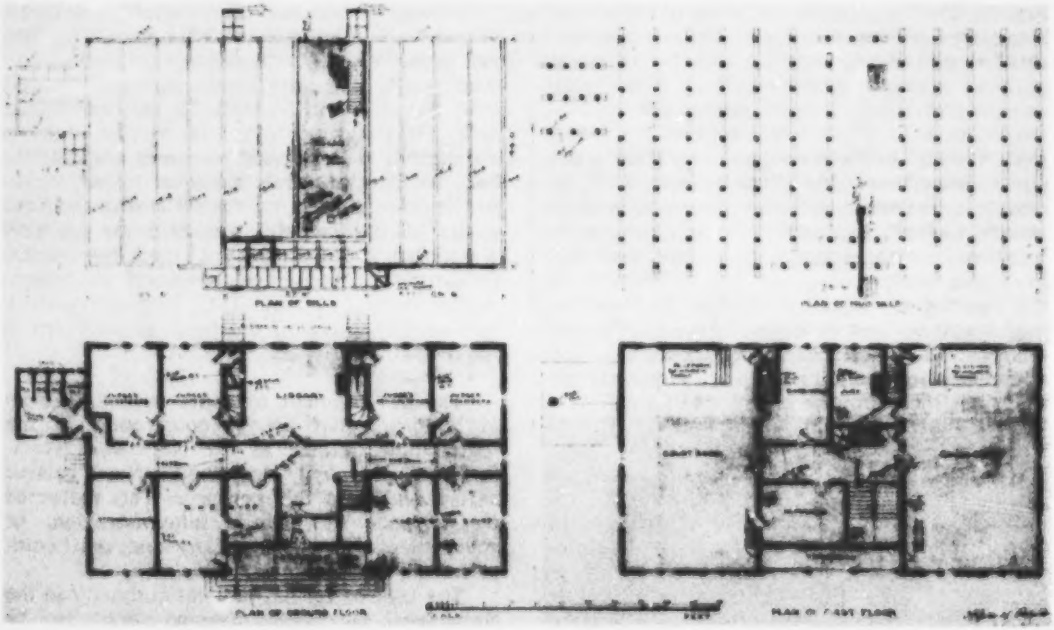
When gold figures continued to rise in 1899, the Department of the Interior requested the assistance of the Department of Public Works in erecting more substantial buildings to house government functions in the territory. In response, young Thomas Fuller (son of the former Dominion archivist) was despatched to the Yukon. He was responsible for designing both buildings that served as court facilities from 1901 until 1958, the court house (Figs 7, 8) and the administration building (Fig. 9). Since both of these buildings were planned and built as part of a series of government structures by the same architect (Fuller) within a limited period (1900-1905), they vary little.

Both employ classical motifs in their exterior design. Both were constructed under

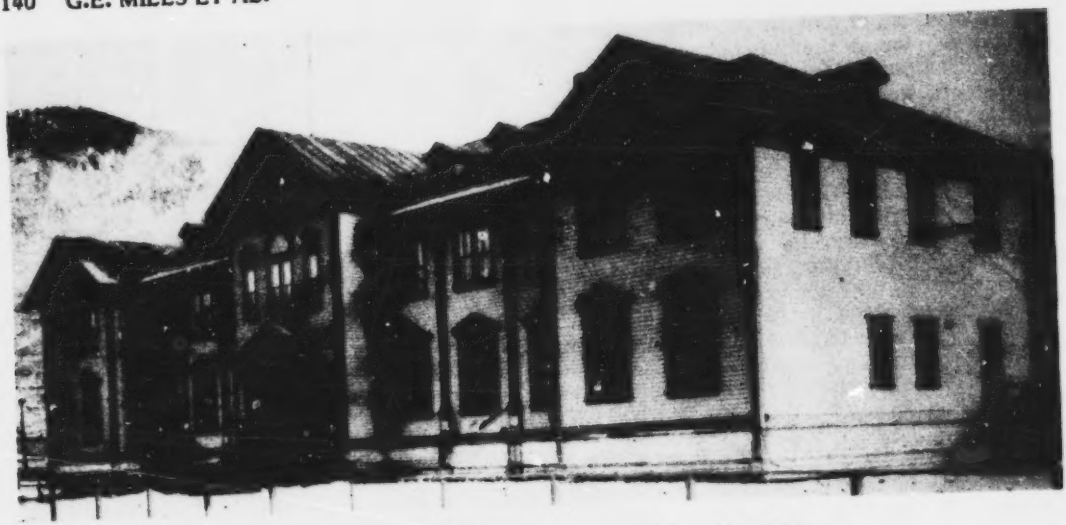
the supervision of the same architect using day labour, for at the time they were built, prices fluctuated erratically, and local contractors were unwilling to stand by firm contract bids until approval to proceed was received from Ottawa.[26] Both buildings were built primarily of materials imported from southern Canada. Fuller judged local raw materials inferior in quality and used them only when necessary, for foundation fill and interior framing. He was, nevertheless, under instructions to buy his materials from local firms: "I have been most careful to follow instructions received from the Department regarding patronage...in every instance where all things were equal the preference was given to Canadian firms."[27] Undoubtedly this was intended to support the local economy, in accordance with the usual policy of contracting construction of government buildings to local firms.

Before beginning his design for the territorial court house, Fuller consulted the senior magistrate, Judge Dugas, and asked him to stipulate his needs.[28] Dugas's suggestions were undoubtedly incorporated in the two court house plans Fuller subsequently prepared. The first of these incorporated judges' apartments; however, it was later superseded by a second plan when judges received permission to live in separate quarters. As built in 1901, the court house contained two private judge's offices, judge's chambers and sheriff's and clerk's offices on the ground floor, with jury, cloak and stenographer's rooms on the second floor, along with the two courtrooms. It was satisfactory to all concerned.

In addition to the court house, a multifunctional administration building was completed during 1901. Although somewhat larger than the court house, it bore stylistic similarities to that building. Architect Fuller noted



8 Court House, Dawson, Yukon Territory
Built 1901; T.W. Fuller, resident (DPW) architect. These plans illustrate the interior configuration of the Yukon Territorial Court House. Note that the building contains no jail or auxiliary accommodation for other government offices, labelling it a court house in a major centre. (Canada. Department of Public Works)



9 Administration Building, Dawson, Yukon Territory
Built 1901; T.W. Fuller, resident (DPW) architect. Although it was not constructed as a court house, the Yukon Territorial Court occupied quarters in this building from 1910 to 1953. The court shared accommodation with the Territorial Council. (Dawson Museum)

that it would be "a saving of heat, then great convenience, as one Department will be closely intertwined with the others; also caretaker's wages." In addition "it will be practically two or three buildings in one, and will save this endless repairing and fitting-up" of the heating system.[29] A similar justification might well be used to explain the existence of many multi-functional court houses. The administration building housed a variety of functions including the chambers of the Territorial Council, the Gold Commissioner's Court, and territorial and municipal offices. The building housed territorial court facilities from 1910 to 1953 as a result of a consolidation programme carried out in 1910 in response to the decline in judicial and administrative activities corresponding to the drop in gold production and population in the Yukon.[30] Interestingly enough, when they were located in the administration building, the courts shared quarters with the Territorial Council in the council chambers, and the room seems to have been altered very little to serve its joint purpose.[31] After 1910, the original court house was re-allocated for use by the NWMP, a function it continued to serve until 1954. Both buildings survive today as major architectural landmarks: they were among the first works of a man who was later to become "Dominion Chief Architect," and responsible for later court house design himself.

Northwest Territories

The development of court houses or even of buildings that housed courtrooms in the region now defined as the Northwest Territories can be easily described. None existed before well into this century. This reflected the absence of judicial administration, or government supervision of any kind, until comparatively recent times.

The lack of formal judicial authority in the Northwest Territories for so long can be explained by the absence of any settlement of white population - the native population was left to regulate its own traditional society - and the vast areas to be covered. The earliest government establishments, in 1903 and 1904 on the Arctic Coast and the Hudson Bay, were

erected as a response to the American whaling industry which was disturbing the Inuit population and practising an unregulated trade. The Royal Northwest Mounted Police established posts at Herschel Island and at Cape Fullerton for the "collection of customs, the administration of justice and the enforcement of law as in other parts of the Dominion."[32] The American Arctic whaling industry was nearly extinct by this time, but the posts remained.

In 1920 the RCMP sergeant in charge of the post at Cape Fullerton apprehended an Inuit murder suspect and the problem arose concerning how to try him. "The alleged murder took place in the general neighbourhood of Baker Lane, and the witnesses, i.e. the fifteen or sixteen natives who were in camp at the time, live in that region; no capital case hitherto has been tried nearer the scene than Norway House [Manitoba]."[33] The solution was unique in the history of Canadian courts: a court was convened on the Hudson's Bay ship *Nascopie* and the trial was held aboard the vessel in Chesterfield Inlet in 1921.[34]

A court system indigenous to the Territories really dates from the Northwest Territories Act of 1927,[35] providing for the appointment of stipendiary magistrates who were to "in a summary way try such charges as minor thefts, unlawful wounding, and certain types of assault."[36] Other charges were tried with the intervention of a jury of six unless the accused elected to be tried summarily by a stipendiary magistrate.[37] Echoing the floating court of 1921, Justice Lucien Dubuc of the Alberta Supreme Court, acting as stipendiary magistrate for the Northwest Territories, in 1929 "journeyed down the Mackenzie River with a full court and at the principal posts disposed of the docket of cases awaiting trial."[38] The custom, however, was for important cases to be held before superior courts in the provinces. The first building known to have been erected especially to contain a courtroom dates from outside the period of this study. At Hay River in 1949 a one-storey office building twenty by thirty-six feet was erected to serve as a courtroom and office for the stipendiary magistrate and staff.[39]

Province of Manitoba, 1870-1930

Judicial System

The establishment of a formal government for the Province of Manitoba was accompanied by a reorganization of the existing legal system. An interim general quarterly court of Manitoba[40] (1870-71) was replaced during 1871 by the courts of petty sessions and the Supreme Court of Manitoba.[41] The following year, the Dominion Government took charge of the Supreme Court, and created the Court of Queen's Bench. As well, the petty courts were replaced by county courts, which continued in the former five Manitoba districts.[42]

Rapid growth in Manitoba between 1879 and 1882 brought about the division of the

10 Before the construction of the first court house in the present Northwest Territories in 1949 at Hay River, and even afterwards, travelling magistrates visited the major posts and convened wherever they could. This court, held in Fort Providence in 1931, met in a church. (Public Archives Canada)

province into three judicial districts in 1883. County courts presided over the Eastern, Central and Western judicial districts (seats at Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon), and a higher court sat at Winnipeg.[43] Additional districts were introduced in 1904, with the creation of the Southern Judicial District (Morden); again in 1908, with the Northern (seat at Minnedosa) and latterly, in 1916, with the Northern judicial seat moved to The Pas and the Dauphin Judicial District came into existence.

The judiciary assumed its present-day form in 1906, when the Manitoba court of appeal, composed of the chief justice of Manitoba plus five justices was created. Below this were the provincial court judges, and then the county courts in five judicial districts - the Eastern, Central, Western, Dauphin and Northern.

Court Houses

After the formation of the Province of Manitoba in 1870 the village of Winnipeg, a rival offshoot of Fort Garry, remained as the chief centre of trade in the new province, as well as its most populated point. Upon the creation of the Court of Queen's Bench, Winnipeg assumed a role in the provincial judicial structure. One consequence was the establishment of the province's first court house in a former Winnipeg store building in 1870.[44] At the time, a serious conflict began to arise between Winnipeg entrepreneurs and the Hudson's Bay Company over the location of public buildings. The Province of Manitoba supported the Winnipeg faction by constructing a substantial addition to the store/court house in 1873.[45] This store/court house was located at the north end of the village, and its site was to provide a focus for the future town of Winnipeg.

In 1873 this store/court house (Fig. 11) was the most prominent building in Winnipeg, although Alexander Begg considered it to be "no ornament to the city."[46] Constructed of oak logs and sheathed with siding, the building remained nondescript in style because of its adapted nature. The 1873 addition was surmounted by a medium pitched truncated gable roof. This allowed an observation deck with a widow's walk to be constructed. From there, many fine early photographic views of the city were taken.

The jail was located beneath the courtroom and was reached by a trapdoor. It housed as many as ninety prisoners in forty-four cells of

11 First Court House, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Adapted to court facilities, 1870. In 1873 a substantial addition was made to the Manitoba government's first court house in an adapted store. As this photograph illustrates, the addition was larger than the original building. The structure ceased to be used as court facilities in 1883 and was demolished in 1884. The building was located at 494 Main Street, Winnipeg. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba)

the most primitive type, measuring approximately four by six by six feet with stone walls and a brick floor.[47] There was a stockade where inmates could exercise and get fresh air. Despite this meagre beginning, the structure was fairly complicated as a "frontier" court house and was considered fine enough for the local legislature to sit in for nearly a decade. The courtroom (50 by 40 ft) also served as a meeting hall and theatre before a city hall was built in 1875. After the 1873 alterations were made, a local journal wrote "it is very doubtful whether a lest [*sic*] costly building would have answered the purposes as well."[48]

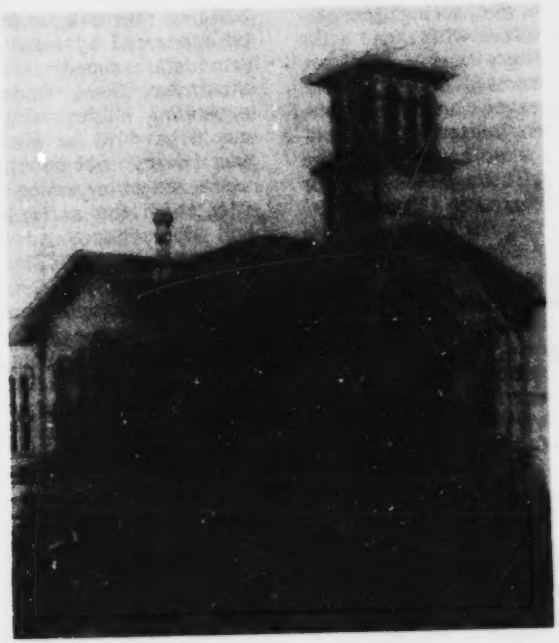
Outside Winnipeg, quarters were initially rented in buildings in various centres.[49] The province rented quarters in Manitoba's second court house built in 1880 by the rural municipality of Portage la Prairie. This building too was constructed near the contemporary business heart of "the Portage," on Broadway Avenue. It cost five thousand dollars to build, and part of the amount was subsidized by the Manitoba government.[50] Inspired by popular building fashions, this court house was Italianate, complete with gingerbread gables, small bracketwork, and a low hip-roof, according to the design of Charles Lynes.[51] From what is known of the building, the jail was located within its brick walls.[52] It served as a court house until 1895 when it was replaced by accommodations built by the government for its own use.

The province continued to be fortunate in its ability to rent good judicial facilities, for in 1881 the rapidly rising town of Emerson proclaimed its civic dignity by constructing an Italianate town hall (Fig. 12) that contained a courtroom.[53] A jail was evidently located in the structure as well, for early photographs indicate bars on certain windows. The Emerson building was slightly more elegant than its Portage La Prairie contemporary, as it had a tower crowned with four pediments. Its cost may have been around seven thousand dollars,[54] and here also the province undoubtedly assisted in its financing.

The advent of a boom on the Prairies during the early 1880s sparked a rapid rise in the population, thereby greatly increasing the need for permanent judicial facilities. The division of Manitoba into three judicial districts in 1883 sparked a wave of court house building that outside of Winnipeg continued to be sponsored by local government with some provincial support. The government of Manitoba was understandably wary of expending public funds on court houses that would have to be abandoned once the boom was over; nevertheless, the same boom attracted enterprising architects who brought with them the architectural popularities that had superseded those of the previous generation. Consequently, Italianate public buildings gave way to the Second Empire and more eclectic variations, and the permanent, solid brick court house was introduced to Manitoba.

As the chief population point in the province, Winnipeg received the largest and most ornate of these structures in 1882-83 (Fig. 13). The Second Empire building that replaced its store/court house was designed by Winnipeg-based English architect C. Osborne Wickenden (1850-1934) on commission by the provincial government. It boasted a bellcast mansard roof, quoins and ornamental brickwork. The building was surmounted by a tower with a crest depicting the provincial buffalo at full gallop.[55] Three storeys high, the court house was of brick bearing-wall construction. A separate, complimentary jail was built on a site adjacent to the new Kennedy Street court location by the firm of Walter Chesterton and Robert McNicol.[56] Both buildings were owned by the Manitoba government who paid for their construction.

In contrast, court houses were built in both Neepawa and Brandon, during 1883-84. Although the provincial government made some contribution, the majority of costs for the latter were paid by the city of Brandon.[57] The County of Beautiful Plains financed most of the Neepawa building (Fig. 14) to promote Neepawa to supplant Portage la Prairie as centre for the Central Judicial District.[58] Both court houses were brick, Second Empire designs prepared by architect C. Osborne Wickenden. Unlike the court house Wickenden designed in Winnipeg, both the Brandon and Neepawa buildings contained jails. These were connected to the courtrooms by separate passages. Courtrooms in both of these buildings were smaller and less ornate than in the Winnipeg Court House, yet in Neepawa at least the courtroom seems to have served a more integral public role than even that in Winnipeg. From the beginning, it functioned

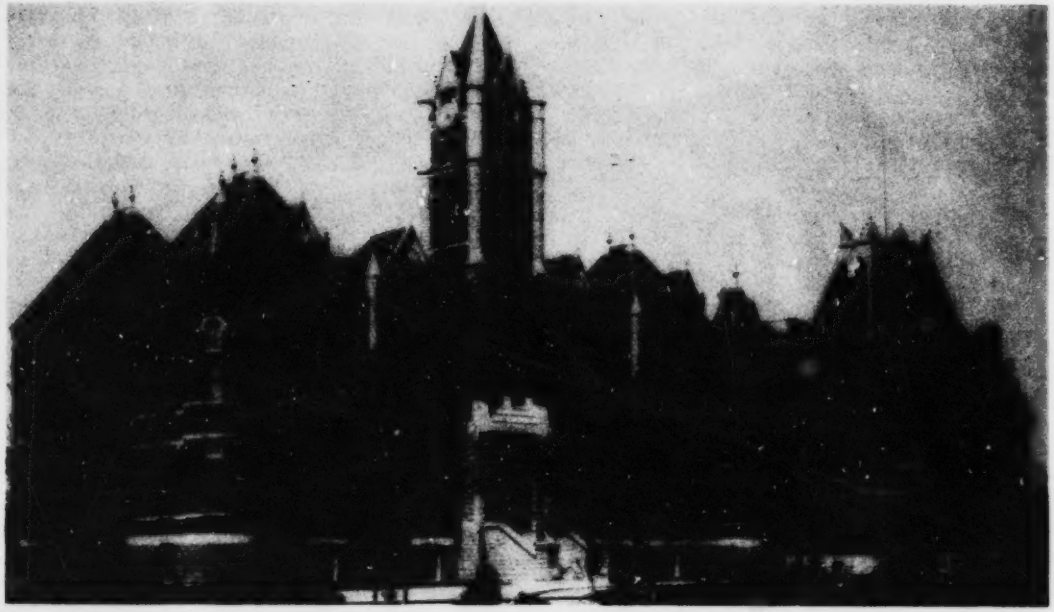


12 Former Emerson Town Hall, Emerson, Manitoba
Built 1881. The Manitoba government rented early court facilities in this building and occupied them until the building burned down in 1917. In return for the privilege, the provincial government assisted in funding the building's construction. This arrangement was typical of the period in which the town hall was constructed. The building's Italianate design was also a contemporary fashion. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba)

as a public hall for gatherings, theatrical performances and other amusements.[59] Municipal offices were also located in the building, and so the courtroom was presumably used as a municipal council chamber as well. In contrast, Brandon's court house functioned only as a court house and jail. Perhaps this was because Brandon's position as centre of the Western Judicial District had been confirmed.

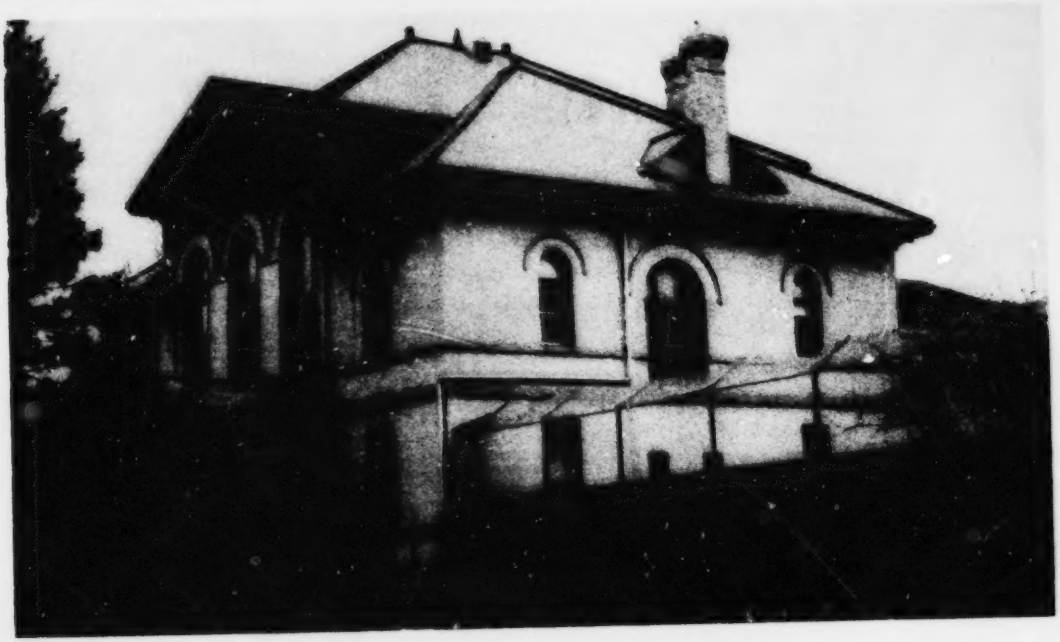
In the decade that followed, the Manitoba government adopted a slightly more aggressive attitude in the construction of its public buildings. It appointed an inspector of building, and through him assessed judicial facilities then in use. Quarters found wanting were replaced by the government at government expense, with designs commissioned from private architects. As a result of this investigation, new court houses were built in the long-established judicial centres of Winnipeg (1893-94) and Portage la Prairie (1894-95).

Wickenden's 1882-83 Winnipeg Court House was branded poorly laid out and overcrowded less than ten years after it was completed - trials had to be postponed because all courtrooms were in use and new court house accommodation was desperately needed.[60] As a result, in 1892 Winnipeg architect Charles H. Wheeler was hired to design an addition to the building. Wheeler's addition (1893-94) so overwhelmed the original court house that the older building became the wing. Lineally, the new structure occupied about twice the space of its neighbour; in addition, the brick and stone of the 1882 building were painted red to



13 Former Court House, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Built 1882-83 and C. Osborne Wickenden architect; addition built 1893-94 and Charles H. Wheeler architect. Wickenden's original court house *(far right)* and Wheeler's addition *(left)* are clearly separate designs, although they performed the function of court accommodation jointly. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba)

14 Neepawa Court House, Neepawa, Manitoba
Built 1883-84; C. Osborne Wickenden, architect. Rapid settlement in the Neepawa area led the County of Beautiful Plains to build this court house and jail *cum* municipal hall relatively early. The building also included a theatre. Its foundation is local fieldstone, its ornamental stonework native limestone; yellow brick from Portage la Prairie was used for its walls. (Public Archives Canada, National Photography Collection)



15 Court House, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
Built 1894-95; George Browne Jr., architect. Built by Brandon contractor T.M. Beamish, this building was designed by a well-known Winnipeg architect in conjunction with a design he was preparing for a Masonic temple in Winnipeg. In 1905-6 an addition was built. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

match those of the new creation! Although this court house was dubbed "French-Renaissance" by a local journal, photographs indicate this to have been of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, as witnessed by the tall, slender tower, round-arched windows and dominating limestone work (Fig. 13).

The interior of the court house featured an unrestrained use of ornamental work. It contained some notable examples of oak bracket and spindlework, as well as the handsome staircases and well-wrought stained glass windows common to a public structure of its size and time period.[61] California redwood was displayed in profusion, while the floors on the first and second levels were polished oak. The building's library possessed cornices.[62] Wheeler's 1893-94 "addition" to the Winnipeg Court House was clearly one of the architectural triumphs of the day.

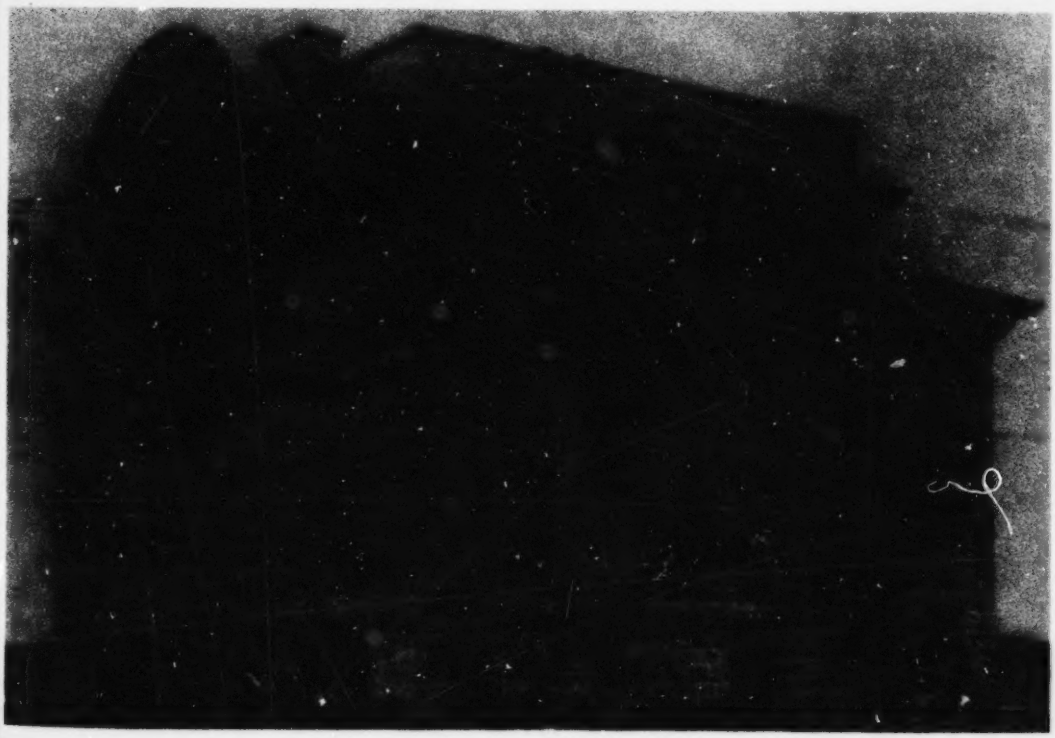
As early as 1892, the Portage la Prairie Court House was declared entirely unfit. "Any repairs put in it would be a waste of money,"[63] claimed the building inspector, and so a new court house was commissioned to be added to the Portage la Prairie jail. The design for the new building was prepared by Winnipeg architect George Browne Jr., and when it was completed in 1894-95, the size, mass and scale of the court house closely resembled the Winnipeg Masonic Temple Browne designed in the same years. Comparing the two, one is led to believe Browne designed a standard formal "body" and affixed details to each to suit the needs of their respective patrons (Fig. 15). The court house featured decorative brickwork and stoneclad Roman arches on the exterior. The interior was similarly ornate, with an elegant library and stairwell. The courtroom, which

occupied nearly the entire second floor, contained a bench of ornamental oak, and a detailed judge's seat. Indeed, the interior of the building is most original in conception and remains well maintained even today.

Originality and variety were the hallmarks of Manitoba's brick court houses, for they were built when the province was developing as a "settled" area, and the government increased its responsibility for court house construction. Some of these buildings housed other functions like theatres and town offices unrelated to their judicial roles; several were financed by municipal governments. All, however, were designed by private architects without standard specifications, and this reason more than any other accounts for their diversity.

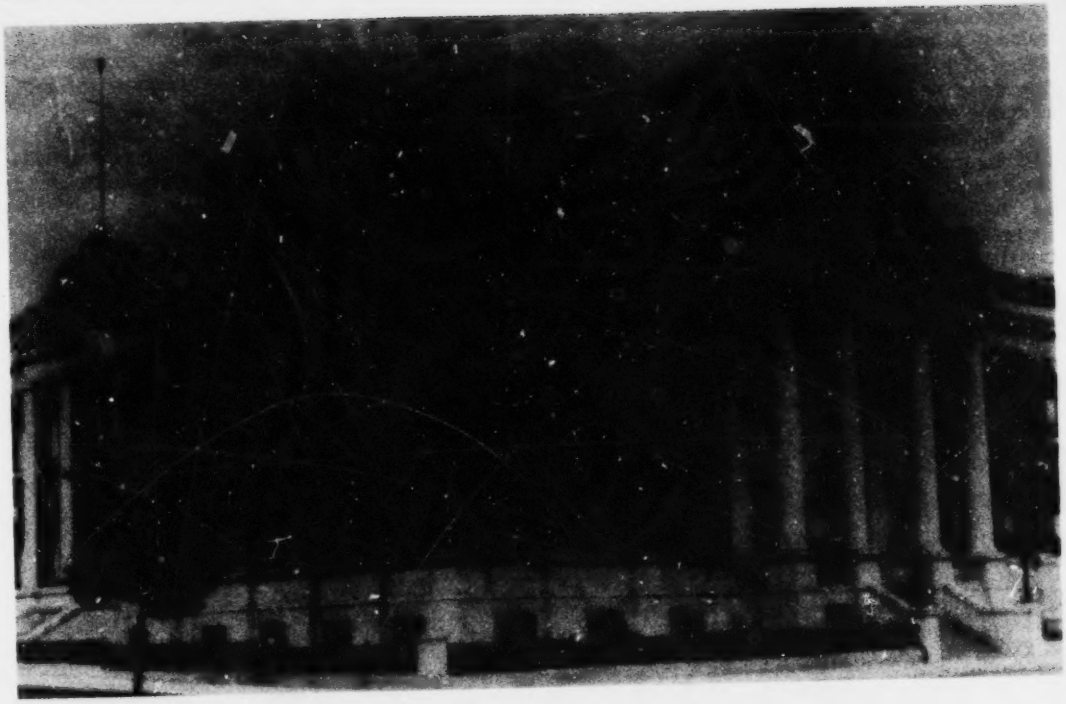
Between 1903 and 1918 Manitoba enjoyed an unsurpassed heyday in building construction. Recognizing the need for substantial public building construction, the Manitoba government created the office of the provincial architect in 1904 and appointed the first man to hold the position, Samuel Hooper (1851-1911).

Hooper prepared designs for new court houses at Morden (1904-5), Brandon (1908-10),



16 Court House, Morden, Manitoba

Built 1904-5; Samuel Hooper, architect. Designed by Manitoba's provincial architect, this court house was built of local boulderstone. Its interior was suitably impressive: oak dado work lined the vestibule to a height of six feet, and a "wide and easy" staircase led to a spacious courtroom on the second floor. *(Government of Manitoba, Public Buildings Erected and Improved by the Government of Manitoba ... 1900-1906* [Winnipeg: n.p., 1906])



17 Court House, Brandon, Manitoba

Built 1908-10; Samuel Hooper, architect. Designed by Manitoba's provincial architect, this classically ornamented court house set a trend repeated by Hooper on a smaller scale at Minnedosa (1908-10) and by private architect J.H. Bossons at Dauphin (1916-17). (Provincial Archives of Manitoba)

Minnedosa (1908-10) and Morris (1909-10). Generally, contracts for construction of the buildings were awarded to local firms,[64] and in at least one case, Brandon, a local architect was engaged, probably in a supervisory role.[65] Whenever possible, local materials were used for their construction. This had some interesting results in Morden where the court house was built of boulderstone from nearby Lake Agassiz. The smaller buildings contained court houses and jails, while the Brandon Court House was a court house only. All buildings incorporated second-storey courtrooms. Hooper's designs were rather conservative. The Morden Court House (Fig. 16) was a bearing-wall building which belonged more properly to the 1890s than the twentieth century. The buildings at Brandon (Fig. 17), Minnedosa and Morris were frame in construction and *Beaux-Arts* in style, yet their massing is reminiscent of an earlier age.

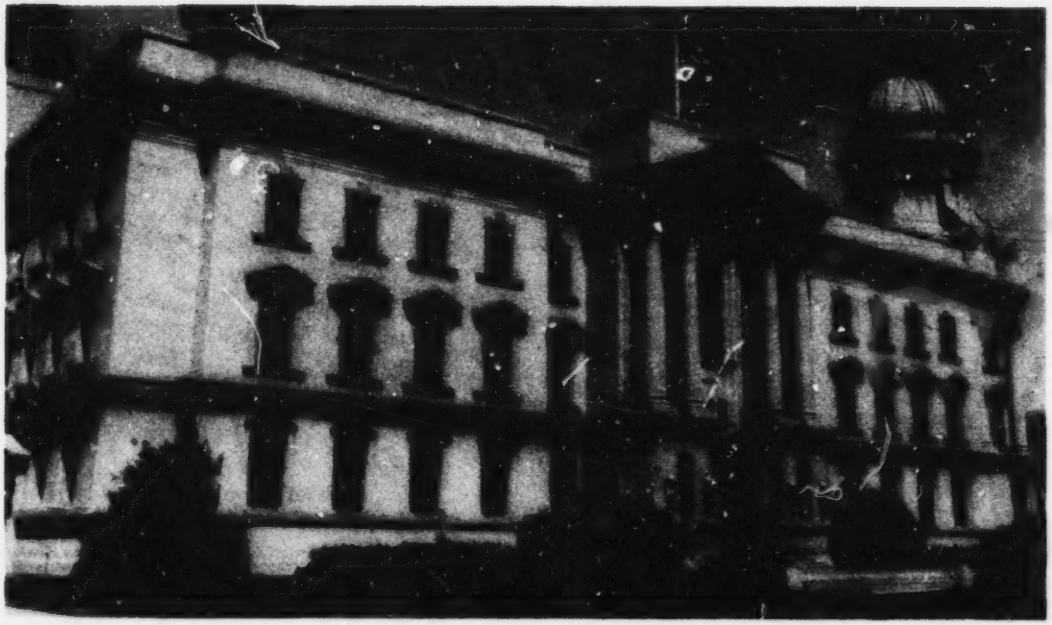
Interiors of the buildings contained a liberal use of oak panelling. The allocation of space in all buildings was generous. The largest of these court houses in Brandon contained a wrought-iron and marble staircase, and a Corinthian style courtroom.[66]

Although Hooper was the provincial architect during the planning of the Winnipeg Law Courts Building (1912-16), ill-health and his eventual death in November 1911 meant credit for the structure fell to his assistant and

successor, Victor W. Horwood (1878-1939).[67] The Law Courts Building (Figs 18, 19). was designed to be compatible with a concept for a legislative area. All provincial government buildings in Winnipeg were to be located within two blocks, thereby creating a "capital" area. Its centre focus was to be the new Classical Revival style legislature, designed by London architect Frank W. Simon, who had won a British Empire competition for this work. Auxiliary buildings were to be the Law Courts, the Land Titles, a new Government House, and a powerhouse, all done in the classical motif.[68]

Horwood's Law Courts (1912-16) in no sense deviated from the concept. Stiffly formal, the building is monumental: its Kennedy Street colonnade is eighty feet wide and the columns forty-eight feet high. It is the largest courtroom in Manitoba, befitting its role as the site of Manitoba's Supreme Court. It has an aura of grandeur, even though it clearly appears subservient to the Legislative Building. Like other buildings in the capital area, the Law Courts is built of limestone quarried in Manitoba. In this case it was hung upon a concrete and steel frame structure.

One of the most striking characteristics of this building is its attempt to be "all Canadian" in construction materials.[69] Limestone quarried at Garson, Manitoba, hung on a steel frame supplied by the Dominion Bridge Company in Winnipeg made up the exterior. These were combined in a Classical Revival design, enhanced on the main entrance by six Doric columns, and a pediment bearing the figure of

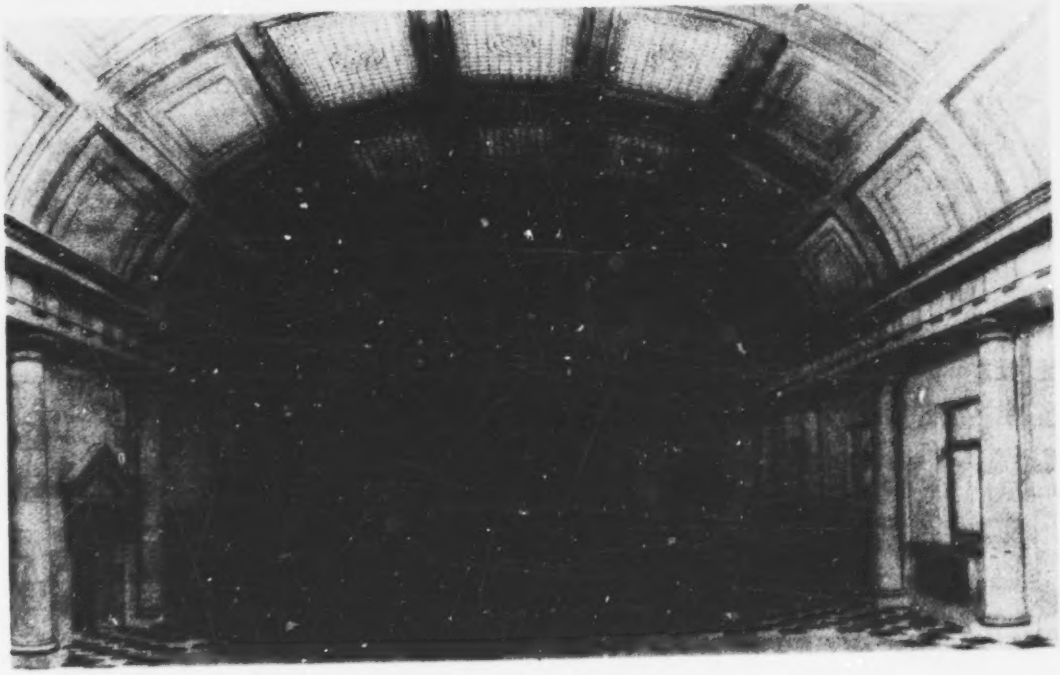


18 Law Courts, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Built 1912-16; Samuel Hooper and Victor W. Horwood, provincial architects. When it was completed this court house was described as one of Canada's finest. It was designed to be compatible with the Manitoba Legislative Building and the other government structures that surrounded it. It made maximum use of Canadian materials. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

justice prepared by a Winnipeg stone sculptor. The interior of the three-storey structure featured wide halls and stairwells, floored and panelled with marble from Missisquoi, Quebec.[70] Interior partitions were made of Medicine Hat tile. From the domed, stained glass roof in its main second-floor courtroom to the scales of justice and sheafs of wheat on its specially made door hardware, the Winnipeg Law Courts was an impressive, carefully planned building.

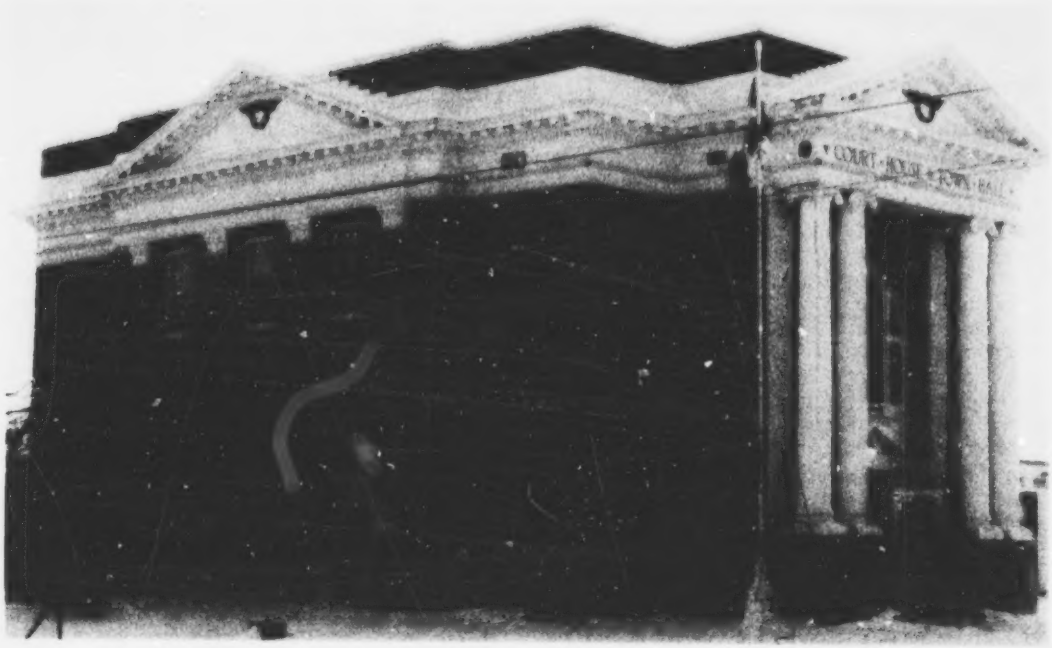
The Law Courts marked the culmination of Manitoba's judicial architecture; after this it reached its nadir quickly. A public works scandal led to Horwood's early retirement and the resignation of the political regime that had sponsored the design and construction of court houses since the early century. The political victors completely reorganized the Department of Public Works (DPW), abolished the office of provincial architect, and did everything possible to ensure that Manitoba refrained from any future attempts at architectural grandeur.

Without a head architect, the department and its superintendent of public buildings made certain that design changes occurred, for this was essential to the image of DPW immediately after the scandal. Thus, local architects were hired whenever a new structure was required. Three court houses were built under this new regime, including buildings at Dauphin (1916-17), The Pas (1916-17) and Emerson (1917-18). The first of these, the Dauphin Court House designed by Dauphin architect J.H. Bossons, was the most similar to its predecessors.[71] It contained a court house and jail and resembled the Brandon



19 Law Courts, Winnipeg, Manitoba

See also Figure 18. This architect's drawing (made in 1912) of the assize court interior depicts its domical stained glass roof. The room was seventy-eight by forty-eight feet, and a heating apparatus was inset into the walls and concealed by bronze grills. The walls were columned and panelled with marble. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba)



20 Court House and Town Hall, Emerson, Manitoba
Built 1917-18; John D. Atchison and Company, architects. Although this building housed the court house, jail and registry office, it was owned by the town of Emerson which also used it as a town hall. It was built during a period of provincial retrenchment in court accommodation, and at least one residence in Emerson surpassed it in size at the time it was constructed. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

Court House designed by Hooper in both exterior and interior appearance.

Contemporary buildings at both The Pas and Emerson marked a radical departure from this trend. Like Manitoba's earliest court houses, both housed municipal hall and court house as well as other functions. They were unusual in design, for the two-storey The Pas building incorporated a courtroom on its ground floor, in a position clearly subordinate to the local assembly hall. The design of the Emerson Court House and Town Hall (Fig. 20) was described by one local newspaper as an excellent example of camouflage, for the building looked like a "Hall of Fame."[72] Neither of these buildings was particularly ornate, and their interiors made use of such economical materials as burlap wall coverings and pine dadoes disguised as oak.[73]

With completion of these buildings, Manitoba's court house accommodation had gone full circle. The multifunctionalism of the early judicial structures reappeared later, separated by a period of buildings specifically constructed to house court quarters. This process stands out in the history of Manitoba for the province undertook very little public building from 1918 until the 1950s.

Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta

Judicial Systems

The provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were born in 1905, and at that time they received the right to manage their own judicial affairs. Accordingly, the Supreme courts of Saskatchewan and Alberta replaced the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in 1907.[74] These were superior courts of record of original and appellant jurisdiction, covering civil and criminal fields. Further provincial legislation passed in the same year established new district court systems in both provinces. Saskatchewan initially designated eight such districts while Alberta's system contained five.[75] Resident district court judges and support staff were duly appointed to each district in the same year.

The number of judicial districts in both provinces escalated steadily during the following years. Saskatchewan's total rose to twenty-three by 1930, while Alberta contained ten districts and six subdistricts by that date. These numbers subsequently declined during the Great Depression of the 1930s and never again rose to that peak level. There are presently nineteen judicial districts in Saskatchewan and twelve in Alberta.

A distinctive aspect of the early court houses constructed in both provinces results from their rapid shift from territorial to provincial administrations. The implementation of a network of district courts created an immediate need for new or upgraded court facilities, a task assigned to the newly established provincial departments of public works in both cases. While the approaches taken by the two provinces followed different paths and ultimately led to distinctly different court house designs, both shared a common goal apart from the immediate one of providing court facilities: this was to provide conspicuous visual symbols of the respective provinces' rapid strides "from primeval wilderness into a civilized territory" within a few short years. Boosters eagerly looked to the prominence and number of public buildings as barometers of the new provinces' progress.

> ....it is in completed and prospective structures of a governmental type that Western Canada as a new country is distinctly transcendent in the building line. No other country so youthful has ever seen work of this character carried on in such a thorough manner...
>
> There is absolutely no comparison between these buildings and the early public buildings of the western section of the United States. The public buildings of the Canadian West are planned along far more substantial lines, are more monumental in design and better adapted to the purpose for which they are intended.[76]

Provincial Court Houses in Saskatchewan

At the time of the inauguration of the Province of Saskatchewan in 1905, the Dominion Government turned over several public buildings located in various parts of the former Northwest Territories.[77] The buildings purchased included the court houses at Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Carnduff, Moosomin and Wolseley.

The new Saskatchewan Department of Public Works does not appear to have begun building operations until 1907. At the outset, responsibility for public building design was contracted to private architectural firms. A competition was held during 1906, whereby a committee consisting of Percy E. Nobbs, F.J. Day and B. Goodhue selected an architect for Saskatchewan's public buildings.[78]

The noted firm of Darling and Pearson won out over such names as Cass Gilbert, Marchand and Haskill, Mitchell and Raine, F. M. Rattenbury, and Storey and Van Egmond.[79] Darling and Pearson became the designers of these government structures: the Moose Jaw Court House; the Land Titles Buildings at Regina, Battleford, Yorkton; the Moose Jaw Jail; and the Provincial Asylum at Ponoka.[80] As well, the firm was to have been the architects of the court houses at Arcola and Battleford, but the Saskatchewan government suddenly replaced them with the firm of Edgar M. Storey and W.G. Van Egmond.[81]

Just why this course of events transpired is still a matter of conjecture, although political affiliations appear to have played a role. Frank Darling was known to be a supporter of the Conservative party;[82] however, John A. Pearson, the other member of the firm, never

21 Court House, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Built 1908-9; Darling and Pearson, architects. This was the only Saskatchewan court house designed by the prominent Toronto architectural firm of Darling and Pearson. It strongly resembles the numerous banks for which they were renowned. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

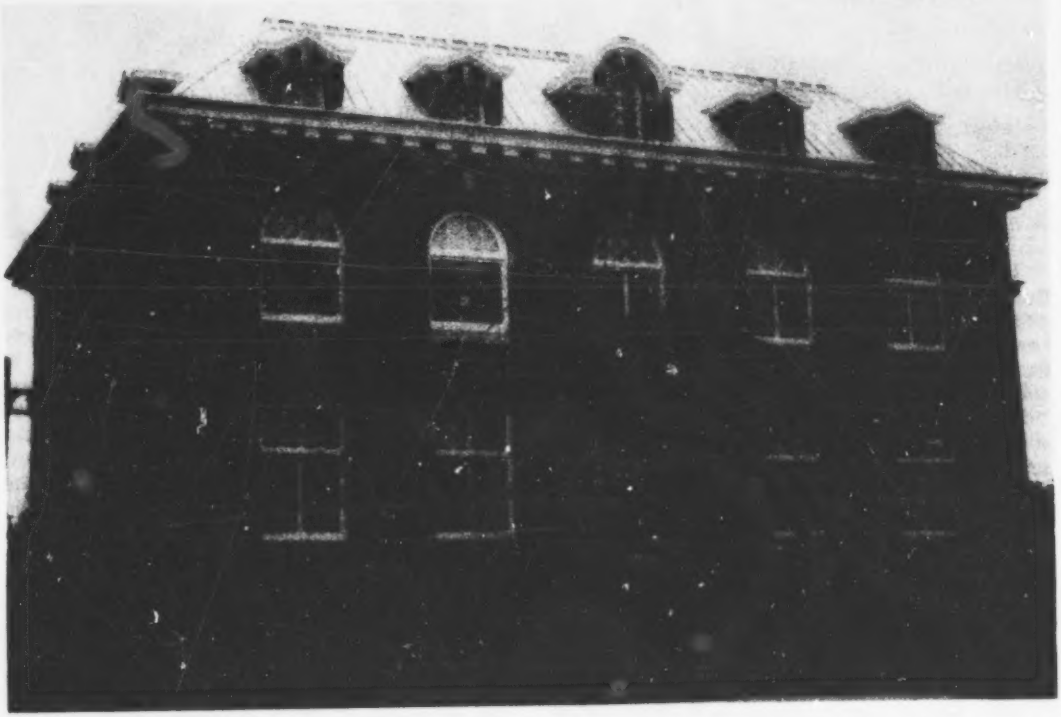
seems to have disclosed his political preference.[83] On the other hand, both Edgar M. Storey and William Gysbert Van Egmond were carriers of the Liberal banner.[84] When the first Saskatchewan court houses were built, the provincial government was composed of the Honourable Walter Scott's Liberals. In addition to being premier, Scott also held the Public Works portfolio until October 1912.[85] During this period, 1907-12, Storey and Van Egmond held a near monopoly on the design of Saskatchewan government structures.[86] Though the firm had only started operations in 1906,[87] the partners appear to have had the proper connections to secure the numerous government contracts involved with the establishment of the new provincial administration.

Another possible reason for the removal of Darling and Pearson might be the striking resemblance their governmental buildings bore to the bank designs they were then producing for numerous branches of the Bank of Commerce. This is evident in their design for the Moose Jaw Court House (Fig. 21). While Storey and Van Egmond's public buildings lacked the staunch classical dignity of the Darling and Pearson structures, the court

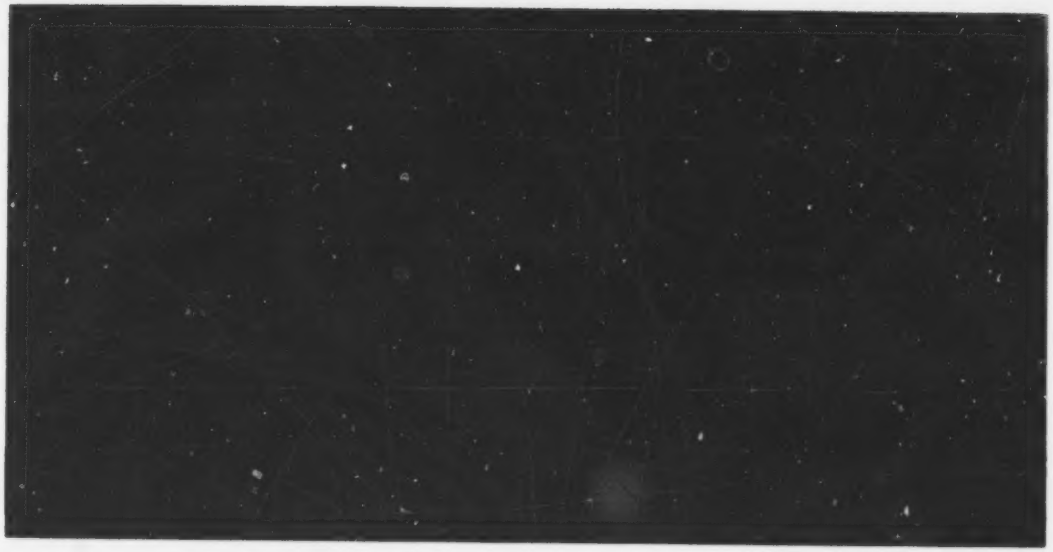
houses produced by the Regina firm were nonetheless formidable. The Arcola and Battleford court houses with their dormer-dominated truncated hip-roofs and enormous bracketwork below the eaves are typical examples of their work (Fig. 22). The Arcola building appears to have served as a basic model for the other court houses designed by Storey and Van Egmond. In size the Arcola, Battleford and Saskatoon court houses, all two and a half storey buildings, were almost identical. The Arcola design was repeated at Battleford and again with much more ornamentation at Saskatoon. Evidently the amount of ornamental trim placed on a standard plan structure denoted the importance of its centre.

The position of Storey and Van Egmond as the unappointed provincial architects continued at least until Scott's resignation late in 1912. A Buildings Branch had been established sometime earlier under W.G. Cottman, but apparently had little to do with the actual drawing of plans. Under the regime of the branch, Storey and Van Egmond designed the Melville Town Hall and Court House, as well as the Moose Jaw and Arcola Land Titles offices, the asylum at Battleford and adjacent powerhouse, and the Regina Normal School. Thus the appointment and term of Cottman brought little change in the role of Storey and Van Egmond as originators of Saskatchewan public building design.

Cottman was succeeded by B. Raymond Philbrick around January 1913.[88] Under Philbrick design seems to have been instigated



22 Court House, Battleford, Saskatchewan
Built 1908-9; Storey and Van Egmond, architects. The same basic design was used by Storey and Van Egmond for court houses at Saskatoon and Arcola. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



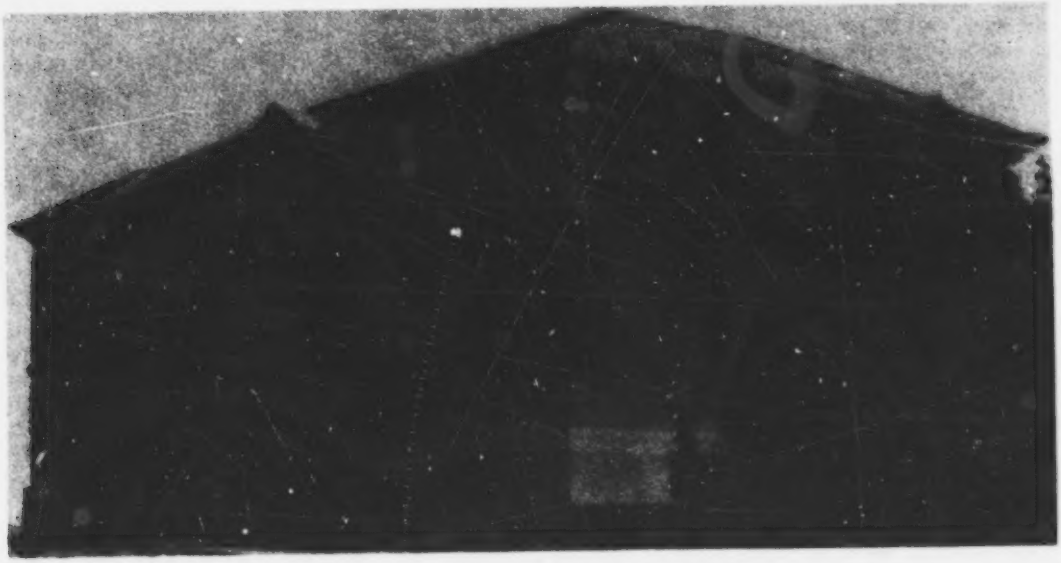
23 Court House and Land Titles Building, Humboldt, Saskatchewan
Built 1914-16; designed by Saskatchewan Public Works Building Branch; B. Raymond Philbrick, director. A similar combined-function building was also constructed at Swift Current, although it lacked much of the architectural ornamentation found on the Humboldt example. (Saskatchewan Archives)

within the department itself. All new buildings started during 1914 were constructed from plans "prepared in the branch instead of outside architects. This entailed a large amount of extra work, and necessitated a considerable enlargement of the staff."[89]

Under Philbrick, two court houses were erected at Humboldt and Swift Current during 1914-15. These added a novel twist to court house design in the province, for each building served a dual purpose. Both were grandiose, and divided into justice facilities on one side and Land Titles offices on the other. Evidently, such a division saved the cost of erecting two buildings for provincial government purposes. The decorated cornices and crested pediments on the Humboldt building gave it a particularly imposing appearance (Fig. 23). At Swift Current, however, the design was more restrained, and decoration kept to a minimum.

The advent of the European war in the summer of 1914 largely curtailed the program of the Buildings Branch,[90] and only buildings under construction were carried through to completion. The removal of Philbrick to the war front in the spring of 1915 brought with it a reorganization of the section. Among the changes was the creation of the office of provincial architect. The first man to hold the position was Maurice W. Sharon, a Regina architect.[91] During his term, which lasted until the autumn of 1929, ten court houses were built in the province. These buildings were built in two chronological phases. Two massive court houses were constructed at Kerrobert and Yorkton between 1919 and 1920. These examples proved to be larger than the requirements of their respective districts dictated - likely the result of a post-war optimism which incorrectly anticipated a return to pre-war prosperity (Figs 24, 25). A period of five years ensued when no court houses were erected in Saskatchewan; indeed, the program for construction of public

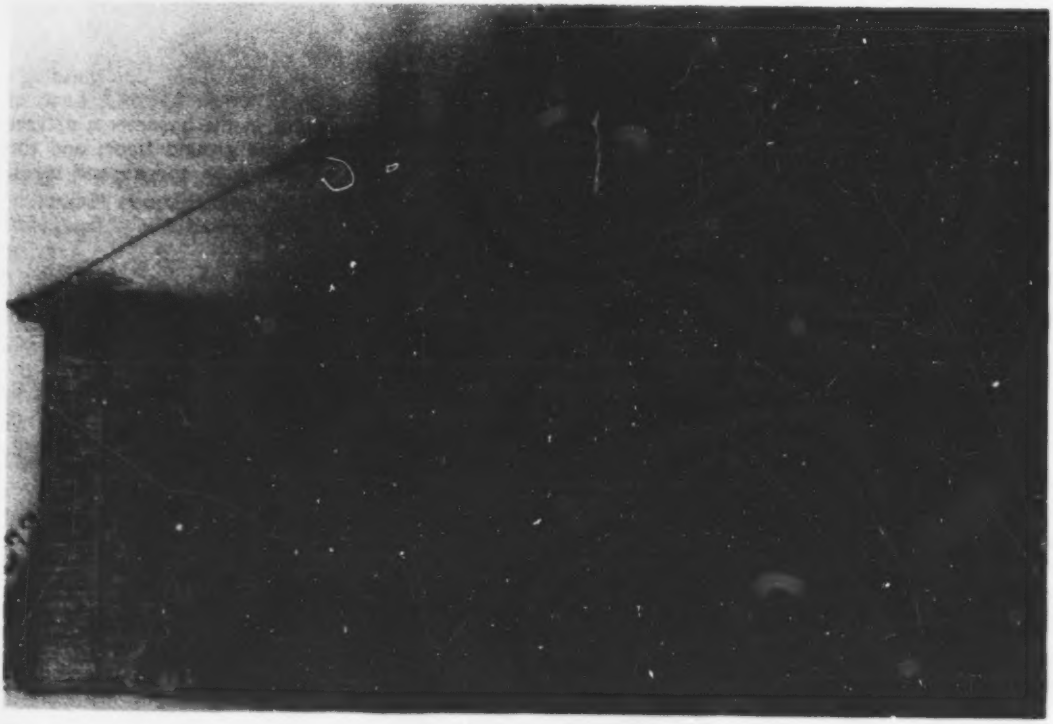
24 Court House, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Built 1919-20; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. Both this building and its contemporary at Kerrobert were built with a view to the future needs of the communities in which they were located. (Saskatchewan Archives)



25 Court House, Kerrobert, Saskatchewan
Built 1920; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. This building occupies a commanding site above its railway town, one of Saskatchewan's smaller judicial centres in 1920. The building contained apartments for janitor and judge as well as provincial police quarters, jail and courtroom. (Saskatchewan Department of Public Works)

buildings of any kind was curtailed. On the other hand, this period of inactivity appears to have instilled some rationalization into the design of court houses. Despite the size of court houses constructed in Kerrobert and Yorkton, the era of rapid growth had passed with the coming of the Great War. By the mid-1920s it became obvious that certain local centres would not become overnight metropoli, and court houses built during this second stage were more modest, constructed to meet local and district needs. In five centres, namely Wynyard, Shaunavon, Gravelbourg (all 1926-27), Melfort (1928) and Assiniboia (1929-30), small court houses were erected after 1925. These were about one half the size of their earlier counterparts and marked the advent of a standard plan, for all five were identical in major aspects. These structures had a modified colonial design.[92] According to one observer, speaking of such eclectic revivals, "the Colonial styles furnished the most fruitful source for emulation, and Colonial of all kinds was for twenty years the rage"[93] (Figs 26, 27).

Three large court houses were also constructed in the "colonial" motif before the Depression ended the fad. Each of these centres was already big enough to require a large judicial building; thus, publicly prominent court houses were constructed at Prince Albert (1927-28), Weyburn (1928) and Estevan (1929) (Figs 28-30). These buildings were considerably larger than the the Shaunavon type and usually commanded a prime site within the



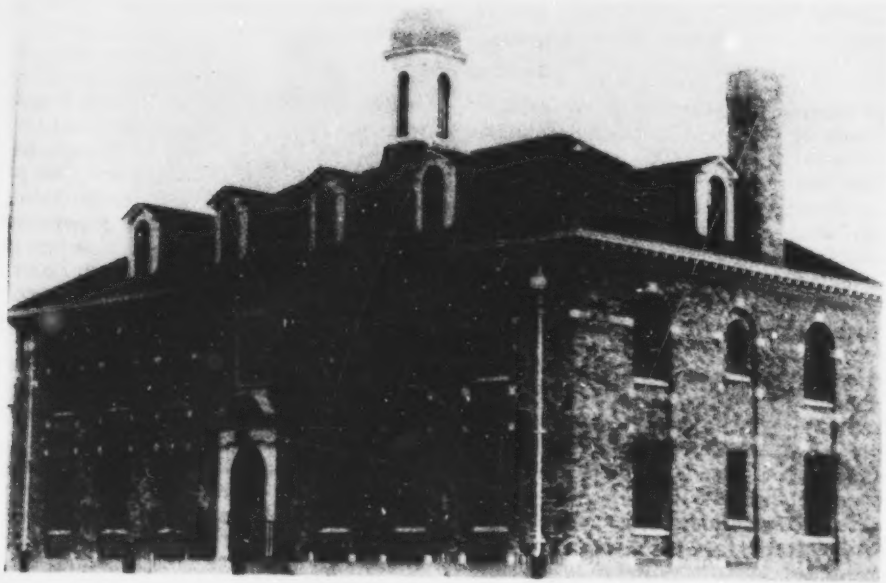
26 Court House, Saskatchewan
Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. This architect's drawing was a standard plan used for court houses in Wynyard (1926-27), Shaunavon (1926-27), Gravelbourg (1926-27), Melfort (1928) and Assiniboia (1929-30). (*Public Service Monthly*, Vol. 4, No. 11 [June 1926], p. 9)

27 Court House, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan

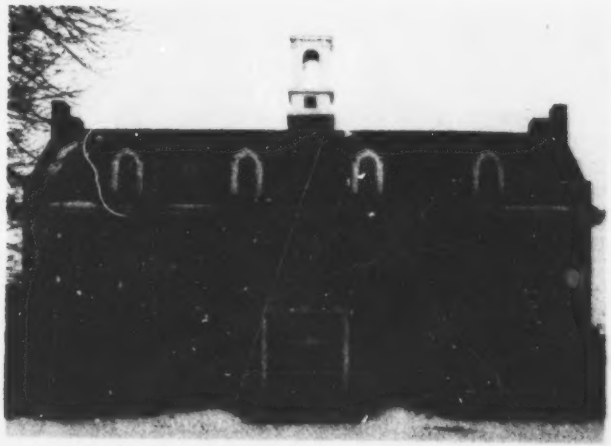
Built 1929-30; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. Taken shortly after the building's completion in 1930, this photograph illustrates well the small "colonial" court house. Each of these buildings contained store-rooms, cells and a Uni-Vent heating plant in the basement; offices for the sheriff and judge as well as a library and other chambers on the ground floor; and the courtroom with surrounding rooms for judge, jury, barristers and witnesses on the second level. *(Saskatchewan Department of Public Works, Annual Report, 1929-30)*

28 Court House, Weyburn, Saskatchewan

Built 1928; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. This architect's drawing of the front elevation of the Weyburn Court House might also have been used for identical "colonial" buildings at Prince Albert and Estevan. (*Public Service Monthly*, Vol. 16, No. 11 [June 1928], p. 7)



29 Court House, Estevan, Saskatchewan
Built 1929; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. This was the last of Saskatchewan's "colonial" court houses built during the halcyon days before the Depression. (Saskatchewan Archives)



30 Court House, Weyburn, Saskatchewan
Built 1928; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect. Aside from some renovations to its front entrance, the Weyburn Court House appears today remarkably similar to its original drawings (Fig. 28). (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

town. Clearly these attractive court houses were calculated to serve as architectural landmarks, for they set new standards within the communities in which they were built.

Harold Dawson replaced Sharon as provincial architect in 1929, but the Great Depression ended most building activity during the 1930s. The Department of Public Works curtailed expenditures as much as possible, undertaking only what was absolutely necessary.[94] The provincial architects' department was itself disbanded in 1934 as an economizing measure.[95] By the late 1950s when judicial construction resumed, architectural styling had entered into an era that broke with the past leaving the early court buildings to stand as a group apart.

Saskatchewan's pre-1930 court houses are remarkable in two characteristics. The first is the succession of standard plan examples which appeared throughout its history under both private and government-appointed architects. Secondly, the province's prosperity and growth during the 1920s resulted in a veritable court house building boom without parallel in other provinces. The American "colonial" motif selected by the Saskatchewan government lent a distinctive appearance to later standard design buildings which sets them apart from contemporary examples in other provinces.

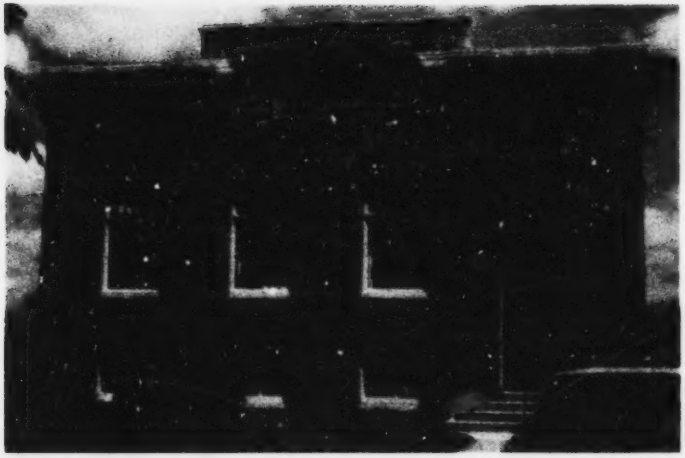
Provincial Court Houses in Alberta

Alberta's population climbed from 185,000 to over 375,000 in the six years following the achievement of provincial status. As in the case of Saskatchewan, construction of public buildings became a major priority of the new administration during this period of rapid settlement. The province launched its programme of public building construction in early 1906 with a normal school in Calgary and a small stone court house at Cardston in the newly designated Lethbridge Judicial District. In fact, both were designed and started before the organizational structure of the province's newly formed Department of Public Works had been completed. The antiquated design and primitive interior layout of the latter building set it apart from subsequent court houses designed and erected after the appointment of an architectural office within the department in the spring of 1907 (Fig. 31).

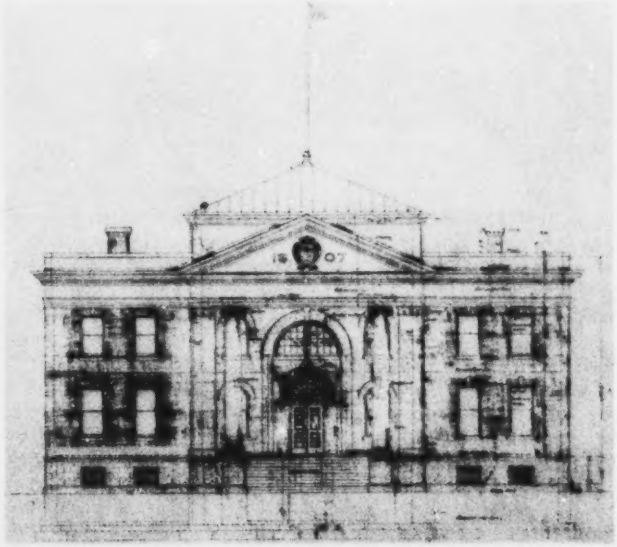
All subsequent public buildings erected between 1907 and 1912 were designed under the direction of Supervising Architect A.M. Jeffers, a native of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, who had received his architectural training at the Rhode Island School of Design, as well as in the office of G.W. Cady and Son of Providence.[96] The majority of institutional designs produced under Jeffers's supervision was characterized by the use of classical detailing for external ornamentation. On court houses, this consisted primarily of the inclusion of one or more projecting porticoed entrances supported by Ionic columns. The fullest expression of the architect's skill with the neoclassical idiom was demonstrated in the Legislative Assembly Building erected in Edmonton between 1908 and 1913.

Jeffers was fully responsible for the design of four court houses erected at Wetaskiwin, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan during the pre-war period, and instrumental in the design of a fifth for Calgary. The first of these was begun at Wetaskiwin in 1907 and completed two years later (Fig. 32). The building was of brick construction over a foundation sheathed in Calgary sandstone. Although somewhat austere in exterior appearance, the building features a sophisticated cruciform plan, with administrative offices on the ground floor radiating from a central cross-axial hall. The courtroom is located on the upper floor, partially shielded from external walls on the front and sides in accordance with court house design theory of the period. The Lethbridge Court House, begun in 1908, employed an identical plan, although the exterior appearance was improved through the use of additional stone trim.

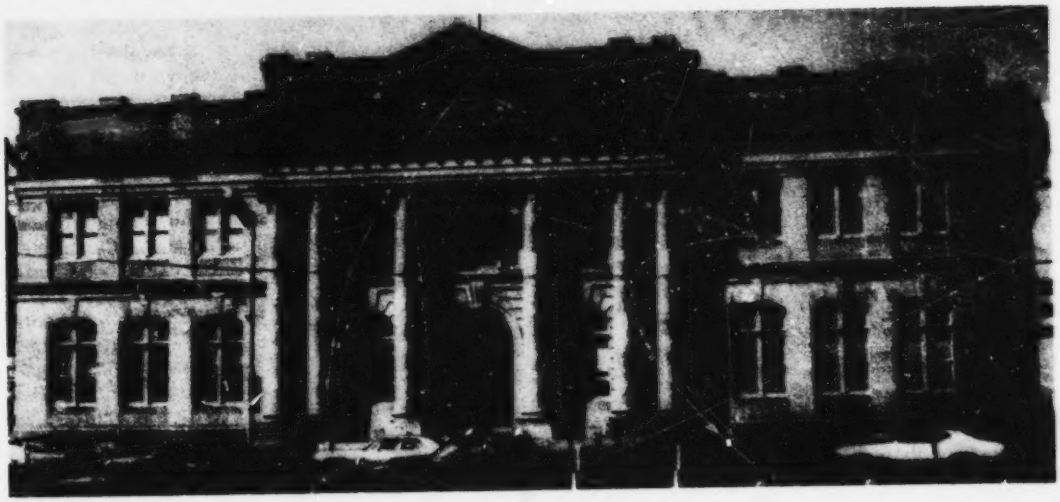
The Edmonton Court House, begun in 1908 and completed four years later, was by far the most ambitious and ornate of Jeffers's court designs, and indeed of the pre-1930 period in the province. The visual focal points of the building's exterior were two monumental porticoed entrances, each supported by six Ionic columns three feet thick and twenty-eight feet high. Exterior walls of the two-storey structure were constructed of Calgary sandstone over a granite basement (Fig. 33). The interior plan was designed around a central rotunda featuring a cast-iron staircase



31 Court House, Cardston, Alberta
Built 1906-8; Alberta Department of Public Works, architect. This was the first court house built in Alberta following the transition from territorial to provincial administrations. It was constructed almost entirely of local materials. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



32 Court House, Wetaskiwin, Alberta
Built 1907-9; A.M. Jeffers, provincial architect. This was the first of four court houses designed by Jeffers. Today, it still closely resembles these original elevations, making it the least-altered early example in the province. (Alberta Housing and Public Works)

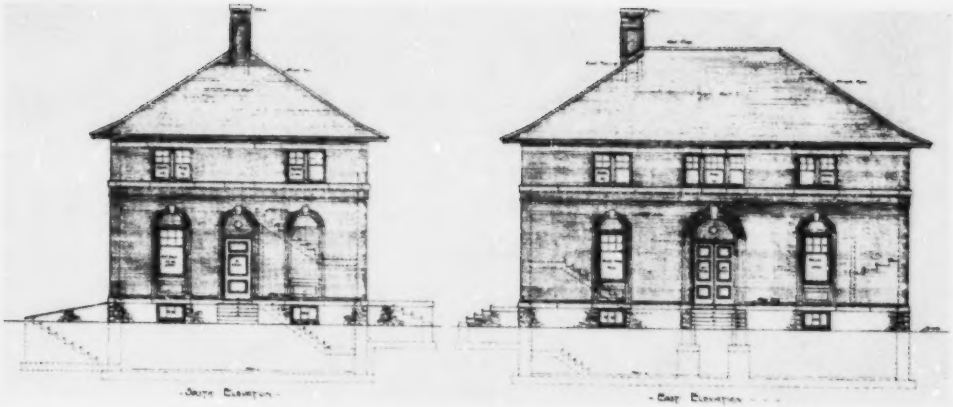


33 Former Court House, Edmonton, Alberta
Built 1908-12; A.M. Jeffers, provincial architect. The recently demolished Edmonton Court House was the most sophisticated example of this building type in the Province of Alberta. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

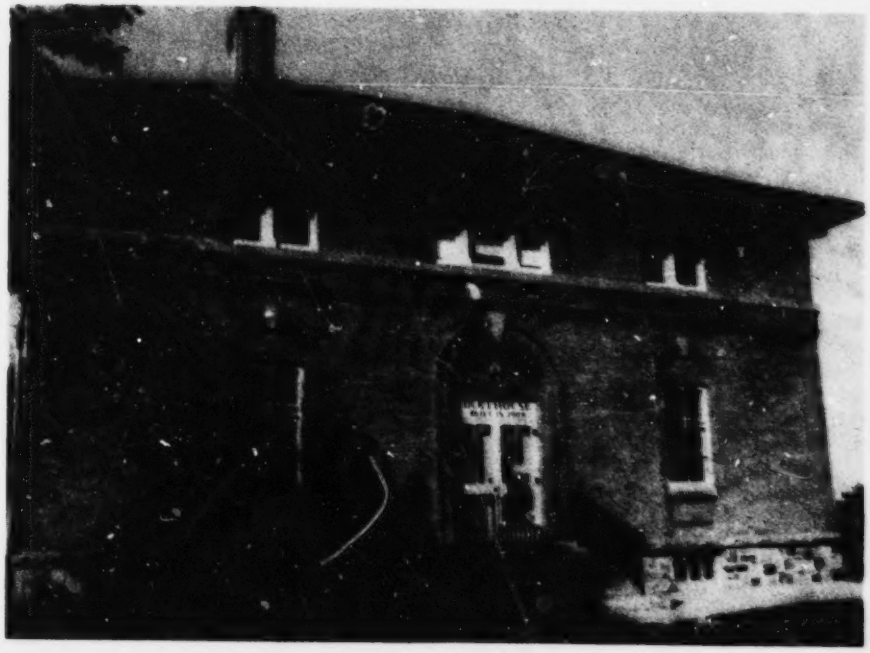
leading to the upper floor. First-floor space contained offices for the sheriff, district and court judges and court clerks, while the upper floor housed four court chambers for criminal, civil, district and appeal courts, along with a law library, and judge's, jury and witnesses' rooms.

The sole exception to Jeffers's use of classical detailing on court houses occurred at Fort Saskatchewan, where a modest utilitarian design was apparently dictated by small size requirements and the need for rapid construction (Figs 34 and 35).

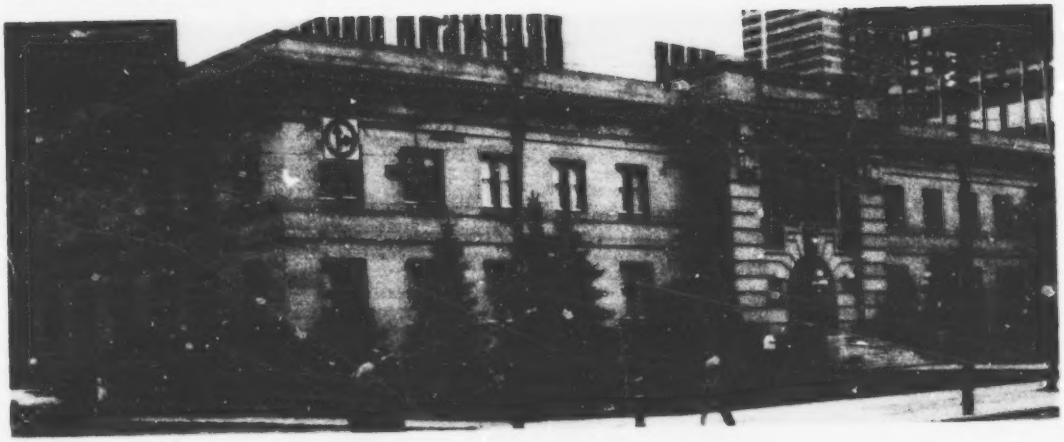
The spirit of boundless optimism, which had motivated large expenditures on public works during the years immediately following establishment of the Province of Alberta, began to fade after 1911 disclosures of serious over-subscription in railway and irrigation company securities by the provincial government. Plans for new court houses at Red Deer and Medicine Hat were indefinitely shelved as a result of the new-found concern for fiscal restraint. In Calgary, where a phenomenal growth rate had made the existing 1889 court house obsolete, plans proceeded for construction of a new building in 1912, but the design produced was austere and subdued compared with the Edmonton Court House. A.M. Jeffers prepared plans for a large, rectangular structure 173 by 80 feet, but lacking both the ornate exterior entrance treatment and complex interior layout of the earlier building. Classical ornamentation was confined to a pair of columns flanking the main entrance on the otherwise undecorated exterior facade. The use of an open central rotunda was discarded in favour of a simple central foyer opening onto a hall running the length of the building. Jeffers's career as supervising architect ended abruptly within a month of his completion of the Calgary Court House plans. He was immediately succeeded by Richard P. Blakey, a Scottish-born and -trained architect who had served as an assistant under Jeffers since 1907. Blakey modified the Calgary Court House plans, further reducing the classical detailing to a pair of small columns recessed above the main entrance, and also making minor modifications to the interior floor plan. Despite these efforts to curb expenses, the new building's final cost when completed in



34 Former Court House, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
Built 1909; A.M. Jeffers, provincial architect. These architect's elevations of the Fort Saskatchewan Court House show a building simpler than most of Jeffers's court designs. (Alberta Housing and Public Works)



35 Former Court House, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
See also Figure 34. This building was used infrequently for court purposes and presently serves as a local museum. (Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)



36 Former Court House, Calgary, Alberta
Built 1912-14; A.M. Jeffers and R.P. Blakey, provincial architects. This was the largest, most expensive court house built in Alberta before 1930, and the last to feature Calgary sandstone as its wall material. Trials were last heard in the building in 1962. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

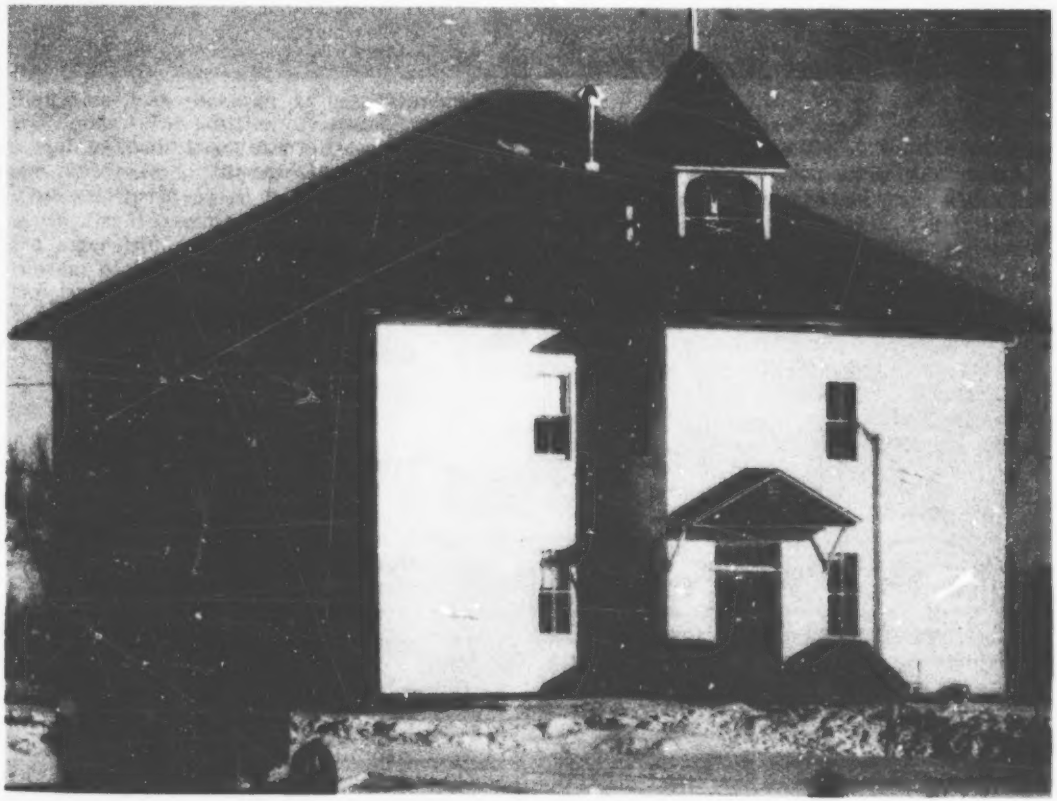
1914 was over $280,000, making it the most expensive court house yet built in the province and the third most costly public building after the Legislative Assembly and Provincial Asylum at Ponoka (Fig. 36).[97]

Completion of the Calgary Court House marked the end of the initial phase of provincial court house construction in Alberta. Although an additional three judicial districts were established in 1914, the provincial government pursued a policy of adapting existing buildings to serve as court houses in designated judicial seats rather than erecting new structures. In Medicine Hat, Fort MacLeod and Red Deer, this entailed continued use of former territorial court houses. When the Dominion Government elected to re-utilize the Red Deer building as a post office in 1915, new court accommodations were procured in a former overall factory on a rental basis.[98] At Stettler, a former schoolhouse was purchased and altered to serve as the new district court house (Fig. 37).[99]

Court house construction from 1906 to 1914 was characterized by extensive utilization of materials and labour procured either locally or within the province. DPW policy in these matters was summarized by the department's structural engineer in 1910: "...we generally make it a practice to deal with the local firms, provided we can get an equal class of material and at a price not greater than we can obtain from outside sources."[100] The most extreme example was the 1906 Cardston building, built of stone and brick procured within a few miles of the site and constructed entirely by local labour; it is possible that the building's contractor was at least partly responsible for the actual design.[101] A notable feature of all buildings designed by A.M. Jeffers was the recurrent use of Calgary sandstone, as sheathing material in the case of the Edmonton and Calgary court houses, and as trim on the smaller brick examples at Wetaskiwin, Lethbridge and Fort Saskatchewan. Construction of all buildings was directly supervised by the provincial architect and members of his staff until 1913 when a building superintendent was appointed to relieve the supervising architect of some of these duties.[102] Construction contracts were awarded by public tender in all cases but the Fort Saskatchewan building, where day labour

under the direct supervision of public works officials was employed. The presence of a provincial jail in the community may account for this shift in policy and for the remarkably low cost of the building's construction.

The prolonged economic recession which brought Alberta's growth to an abrupt halt in 1913 lasted for the duration of the First World War. Gradual recovery during the post-war years resulted in a revival of public works construction in the province, although not on a scale matching the pre-1914 period. Supervising architect R.P. Blakey produced designs for three new court houses between 1918 and his departure from office in 1923. The first of these was a small one-storey brick and stucco veneered building for Taber, a subdistrict seat within the Lethbridge Judicial District. Blakey's most important design was executed in the following year for the city of Medicine Hat (Fig. 38). The building featured an imposing exterior facade highlighted by elements borrowed from the *Beaux-Arts* classical style, notably recessed coupled columns, a raised stone parapet, and contrasting brick and stone wall materials. Its L-shaped plan was similarly unprecedented within the province and served as a basic model for subsequent



37 Former Court House, Stettler, Alberta

Built 1908; architect unknown. This court house was actually a schoolhouse converted to court purposes in 1914. After 1913 the Alberta government frequently employed converted or rented buildings for court purposes to curb costs. The Stettler building was used as a court until 1974 when it was converted into a museum. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

38 Court House, Medicine Hat, Alberta
Built 1919-20; R.P. Blakey, provincial architect. This was the most ornate court house to appear in Alberta during the post-World War I period. (Provincial Archives of Alberta)

39 Court House, Blairmore, Alberta
Built 1923; R.P. Blakey, provincial architect. This building originally combined police barracks with court facilities. Utilitarian in design, this was the first of several inexpensive stuccoclad court houses built in Alberta during the 1920s. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

court houses erected at Red Deer and Vegreville a decade later. Blakey's final court house design was for Blairmore, located near the British Columbia border in the MacLeod Judicial District (Fig. 39). Although initially designed as accommodation for a local detachment of the Alberta Provincial Police, court facilities were incorporated into the design in response to a rapid growth in local court actions arising out of prohibition violations in the vicinity.

The utilitarian rough-cast design employed for the Blairmore building anticipated a succession of austere stuccoclad designs produced in the years following Blakey's departure from office for the small communities of Drumheller, Grand Prairie and Hanna. The policy of combining court and police facilities within a single structure as first evidenced at Blairmore was repeated at both Drumheller and Hanna. The position of supervising architect remained vacant for the duration of the pre-1930 period. Court house designs were subsequently prepared by a drafting section within the Department of Public Works under the supervision of D.E. MacDonald, superintendent of buildings. These consisted of the two large L-shaped buildings at Red Deer and Vegreville in 1930, in addition to the three small structures.

The emphasis on the use of provincially produced materials was less pronounced during the later phase of court house construction, possibly due to the evident decline in symbolic importance attached to such buildings, and certainly reflecting the general decline of the province's construction industry after 1914. The Calgary sandstone featured so prominently in pre-1914 court houses was no longer being quarried after 1915, thus eliminating the most distinctive building material peculiar to the province.[103] When stone trim was required for the Red Deer Court House in 1930, quantities of Tyndall stone were shipped from Winnipeg in apparent preference to provincially quarried materials.

Construction contracts continued to be awarded by means of public tender throughout the period. Preference for local contractors was given in cases of even bids, but this appears to have benefitted local firms only in subcontracts such as plumbing, wiring and heating. General construction contracts were dominated by firms from Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Calgary between 1918 and 1930, although no one firm built more than a single court house.

Alberta's pre-1930 court houses were less numerous and generally more austere in design than their counterparts in neighbouring Saskatchewan. This may be attributed to the province's slower rate of growth during the period. After a brief phase of heavy expenditures on public buildings between 1907 and 1913, the Alberta government pursued a prudent policy confining expenditures on new court facilities to an absolute minimum. With the exception of the Medicine Hat Court House and somewhat later examples at Red Deer and Vegreville, new court facilities were modest, inconspicuous buildings.

Conclusion

Alberta and Saskatchewan share with other parts of the old Northwest Territories a common judicial history that has influenced their court accommodation. When the Hudson's Bay Company was responsible for the administration of justice in the area, its major court was situated at Fort Garry, and all justice was meted out by company officials. This tradition of centralized administration was continued by the Canadian Government once it assumed control of the area. The North West Mounted Police replaced fur trade factors as local magistrates, and police stockades replaced fur trading posts as court quarters. All parts of the old Northwest Territories were marked by the highly centralized nature of their administration, even Manitoba which spent relatively little time under Federal Government control. This can be seen in the construction of their court houses.

Except for Manitoba, the first court houses constructed in this area were built by the Federal Government. They were financed by Ottawa, the administering authority, and designed by a centralized Department of Public Works even though local participation was occasionally encouraged through local construction and materials contracts. Some of these court houses, like those in Dawson and Yorkton, shared common design

characteristics. Others were obvious duplicates or standard plans.

It is noteworthy how frequently these same characteristics recur through the history of provincial judicial architecture in the West. Indeed, several different variations on the themes of common characteristics and standard plans can be found in each province. The reason for this, of course, is that in each case the concept of a central responsibility for public works construction was readily accepted from the beginning of provincial administration. Even in Manitoba where some early court houses were built by municipal authorities, the provincial government never surrendered its control, choosing to subsidize and rent until it was ready to undertake the construction of court houses itself. Alberta appointed a Department of Public Works from the beginning, whereas Saskatchewan awarded contracts to private architects while it retained the reponsibility for funding and standards. Provincial architects were appointed relatively early in all of these areas.

No province delegated the responsibility for court house construction to local governments as in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. The reason for this is evident: ideas about the construction and appearance of court houses were shaped by the common legacy of government inherited from the old Northwest Territories' administration.

EARLY COURT HOUSES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

G.E. Mills

Introduction

British Columbia's early court houses mirror the gradual, often tortuous growth of a decentralized judicial system in the province. Sporadic settlement, a boom-and-bust economy, and immense distances separated by geographical barriers all served to retard the implementation of locally administered county courts until late in the nineteenth century.

The early judicial history of the province was characterized not by impressive court houses, but by colourful administrators of justice: gold commissioners, magistrates and above all, Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie, whose exploits lend a distinctive stamp to the history of law and order in British Columbia. The facilities in which they dispensed justice ranged from rudimentary and primitive to nonexistent beyond the confines of the city of Victoria.

The construction of impressive permanent court houses continued to be hindered by the lack of funds and unpredictable nature of settlement in the province until the late 1880s. Mining boom towns frequently vanished as abruptly as they appeared, making investment in expensive buildings a risky proposition. This gamble was taken occasionally during the 1890s and 1900s, sometimes with success, but often not. As a result, several of the province's earliest court houses stand in remote areas, unused or converted to other purposes. Generally, court requirements were met by utilitarian wooden buildings which often doubled as the local lock-up and government agent's office. Few such buildings have survived.

Construction of substantial court houses of brick and stone was largely confined to the established towns and cities of Vancouver Island and the lower mainland before 1900. After that date comparable examples appeared in a succession of major communities throughout the province. This study will examine the history of British Columbia's judicial system, and the types of buildings that housed its courts during successive phases before 1930.

Colonial Period, 1849-71

The colonial phase of British Columbia's judicial history was marked by systematic efforts to implement the machinery of English common law, first on Vancouver Island, then on the mainland. Before their union in 1866, the two colonies' judicial systems developed independently, with modifications designed to accommodate the circumstances peculiar to each. After 1866, the mainland model was adopted, although the two systems were not formally merged under a single chief justice until 1871.

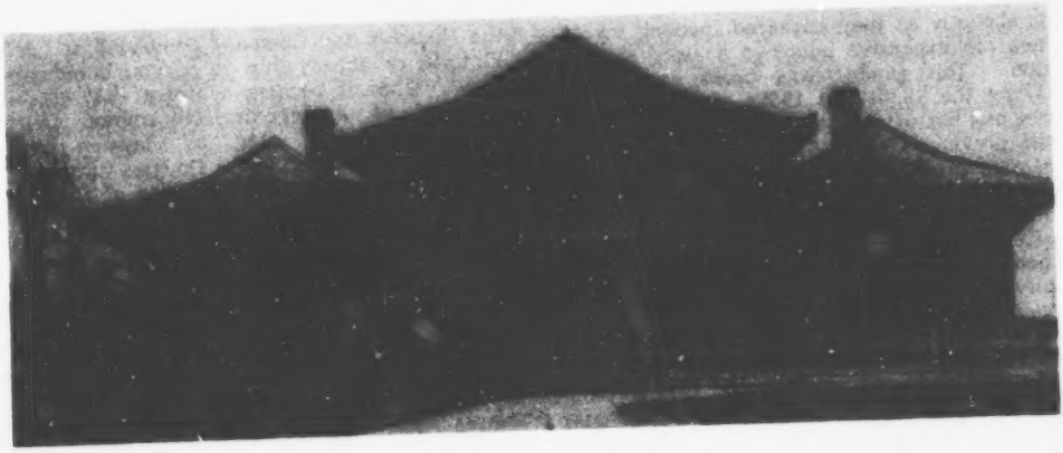
On Vancouver Island, the introduction of joint systems of higher and lower courts was retarded for over a decade by low population and the absence of qualified personnel. Although provision was made for the eventual establishment of courts of record and appointment of justices of the peace in 1849, the year of the colony's inception, initial attempts to set up a system of minor courts administered by lay justices of the peace proved unsuccessful. For the first four years all cases were administered by the governor, either within the Hudson's Bay Company compound at Fort Victoria or aboard ship in coastal communities.[1] When it became apparent that establishment of a decentralized minor court system presided over by laymen was unfeasible, Governor James Douglas turned his attention instead to the formation of a higher court. In 1853 he appointed David Cameron, a layman, as "judge" of a court of common pleas with jurisdiction over all civil suits up to two thousand pounds. Cameron's appointment was eventually approved by the Colonial Office in 1856, whereupon he became formally installed as the colony's first chief justice.[2] In the same year nominal control over the judicial system was vested in the newly formed Legislative Assembly, although legislation defining the organization and functions of the Supreme Court continued to be drafted by governor and council, of which the chief justice was a member. After 1858, this role was assumed by a separate attorney general.

Until 1858, all litigations were handled by

Judge Cameron in Victoria. In that year, preliminary steps were taken towards establishing a minor court system when an inferior court of civil justice was implemented as an adjunct to the Supreme Court. Two stipendiary magistrates were subsequently appointed at Victoria and Nanaimo. Passage of the County Court Ordinance in 1866 extended the jurisdiction of this court throughout the colony, empowering the governor to designate county court districts and appoint local magistrates. In the case of Vancouver Island, this consisted simply of reclassifying the two existing magistrates at Victoria and Nanaimo as county court judges.[3] Until 1870, salaried judges in the colony consisted of the chief justice and two minor court judges. In order to extend the minor court system to smaller communities without adding further expenses to the colony's already overburdened budget, the policy of appointing non-paid lay justices of the peace was revived during 1866-70. These officials were disbanded upon the formal merger of the two colonial court systems in 1870.

Before 1860 Vancouver Island's Supreme Court continued to be housed in a succession of temporary quarters. In fact, construction of public buildings of any kind remained a low priority during this period. Governor Douglas's arbitrary decision in 1859 to proceed with the construction of a complex of four brick buildings to house the legislature, Supreme Court and various government offices was met by intense criticism, primarily on the grounds that the colony could not afford such luxuries. The curious brick and frame designs produced by H.O. Tiedeman, an employee of the colonial Department of Lands and Works, immediately earned the nickname "Birdcages" from local residents[4] (Fig. 1). In fact, only one of the buildings was completed before construction came to an abrupt halt for financial reasons in 1860. As a result, the Supreme Court and legislature were forced to share the same premises for four years, with court sittings arranged to fit between those of the assembly. This situation was eventually resolved with the completion of the remaining buildings in 1864, whereupon the Supreme Court finally acquired permanent quarters.[5]

Minor court facilities on the island were confined to Victoria and Nanaimo. In the capital, a magistrate's courtroom was accommodated in the combination police barracks and jail constructed for the city in Bastion



1 Supreme Court, Victoria

Built 1860; H.O. Tiedeman, architect. This brick building was the first permanent court house in British Columbia. It initially served jointly as court house and Legislative Assembly for the colony of Vancouver Island, but was used exclusively for court purposes from ca. 1864 to 1888. It was destroyed in 1957. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

2 Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie, Chief Justice of British Columbia, 1870–94
For many years Judge Begbie travelled a lengthy circuit throughout the Interior, holding court in whatever buildings were available, and if necessary on horseback. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

Square in 1859 - in fact, both levels of court shared chambers in this building in that year.[6] Magistrate's court continued to be conducted there for the following two decades. In Nanaimo, facilities were considerably more primitive, with the resident stipendiary magistrate obliged to hold court in a room in his residence throughout the colonial period.[7]

The judicial system devised for mainland British Columbia contained modifications designed to cope with the peculiar settlement patterns arising out of its gold-rush environment. Consequently, it differed in several respects from the system devised in the comparatively stable milieu of Vancouver Island. The colony was hastily established in 1858 following the discovery of gold on the Fraser River. One of the most pressing priorities facing Governor Douglas was the rapid implementation of British law, since the majority of goldseekers converging in the area were Americans. To assist him in his task, the Colonial Office appointed Matthew Baillie Begbie (Fig. 2), a qualified English barrister, to serve as judge and advise in the drafting of appropriate legislation. Begbie arrived in the colony in November 1858 and immediately became engaged in the joint tasks of laying out the framework for a Supreme Court system and imposing justice throughout the colony. In the following six months a series of proclamations was issued, culminating in the formal establishment of a court of record, to be known as "The Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia," with Begbie as its sole judge.[8] Begbie was initially provided with temporary facilities, first at Fort Langley, then in the new colonial capital of New Westminster in 1859. Construction of a separate Supreme Court building followed in 1860. This was an austere frame structure measuring forty by twenty feet and containing a courtroom, jury room and small office.[9] Complaints about its appearance and inadequate facilities were being raised within a few years of its construction, illustrated by this newspaper excerpt.

> As far as the present Court House is concerned, the inside is not a very desirable place in winter. With its open floor, rattling windows, and old sooty cotton lining and ceiling, in many places torn to shreds and fluttering in the breeze like a bird of evil omen over the seat of justice - the whole thing is a disgrace to the town.[10]

Two thousand pounds was allocated for its replacement in 1865, but plans were subsequently shelved as the colony's financial situation deteriorated. As a result, the building remained in use as the principal seat of justice on the mainland until 1872.

Much of Begbie's time was spent not in New Westminster, but on a lengthy assize circuit which took him to the various remote mining camps springing up throughout the colony during the early 1860s. Begbie's enduring fame as one of the most colourful figures in British Columbia's history rests primarily upon his exploits as the embodiment of English law during this early period. In the absence of orthodox court facilities, Begbie substituted his own commanding presence with a remarkable degree of success, as noted by one of his biographers, Sidney G. Pettit.

> Wherever he held court, whether it was in the official court house, in a barn, or astride his horse in the open air, he managed to create the atmosphere of an English court of law. He carried his robes with him, and was always clad appropriately to the court over which he presided.[11]

Pettit suggests an analogy between Begbie's activities and those of medieval English antecedents: "He was not unlike the itinerant justices of Henry I and II's day, carrying the royal writ to the remote ends of the domain...." Begbie's theatrical techniques served both to awe the potentially volatile populations of the early mining camps and to cast the colony's court system as a conspicuously English institution, an association that continued to be nurtured throughout Begbie's long tenure as chief justice during the post-Confederation period.[12]

The steady decline in gold mining after 1865 resulted in the stabilization of population within the colony. Gold-rush towns either vanished or declined in size, enabling Begbie to implement a structured schedule of spring and fall assizes at designated locations by the end of the decade. In 1870 this consisted of six communities: New Westminster, Yale, Lytton, Clinton, Quesnel and Richfield, which were visited on month-long circuits in May and September.[13] No evidence suggests that separate Supreme Court facilities were constructed in communities apart from New Westminster; instead, Supreme Court assizes were conducted in buildings employed for minor court, administrative and occasionally jail purposes in the various locations.

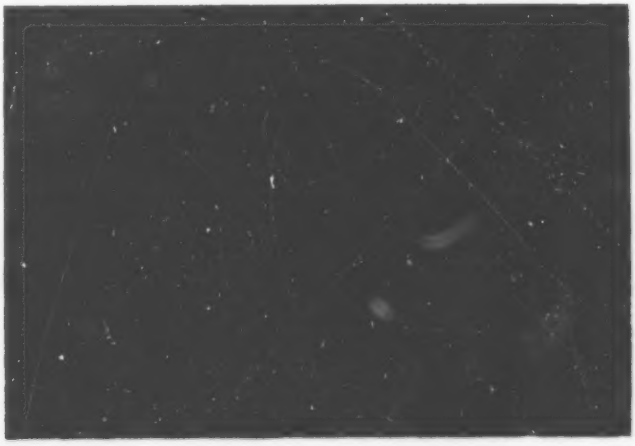
Establishment of a permanent system of minor courts on the mainland began in 1859 in the wake of the Supreme Court's implementation. In this instance Governor Douglas departed from the normal practice of employing the English common law model. Instead, he implemented a modified system known as the Gold Commissioner's Court through passage of the Gold Fields Act of 1859.[14] This legislation, apparently influenced by similar systems in Australia and New Zealand, created a group of officials known as assistant gold commissioners who played a unique role in the subsequent administration of both administrative and minor court functions throughout the Interior of the colony. Appointees assumed the role of civil magistrate, with additional jurisdiction over all mining disputes within their assigned districts. The extent of their civil magistral powers was defined by a second piece of legislation, the Small Debts Act of 1859, which empowered them to preside over civil suits not exceeding fifty pounds.[15] In addition, the assistant gold commissioners performed a variety of administrative tasks, notably those of tax collector, registrar of votes, Indian agent, and assistant commissioner of Lands and Works. Five such officials were appointed in 1859, followed by four more in 1865 when their effectiveness had been thoroughly demonstrated. Governor Anthony Musgrave later attributed "...the successful administration of this government and the remarkable maintenance of Law and order as compared to the neighboring territories as mainly due to the services of these officers...."[16]

The colonial government's reluctance to fund public buildings compounded the difficulties faced by assistant gold commissioners, who were charged with procuring accommodation for both themselves and their subordinates upon arrival in an assigned district. Judge Begbie has left a vivid description of the condition in which the two initial appointees assigned to the Cariboo District conducted their operations in 1860.

> At Williams Creek a log house was built by Mr. Elwyn, which being divided across the

> middle gave accommodation for writing in the one half, a space of about 12 feet by 16 feet - and on the other half of equal size but possessing the inestimable luxury of a fireplace, Mr. Elwyn, his secretary, and three constables had bunks piled upon each other, in which each man could spread his blankets separately. At Van Winkle, Mr. O'Reilly had not found the means of providing himself with any such luxury and the whole business of the district had to be conducted in a tent, which was the sole protection against the weather for him, and the books and records of the district.[17]

Further definition was given to the minor courts with passage of the County Court Ordinance of 1866. This act established a preliminary system of county courts to be presided over by county court judges with jurisdiction over civil actions up to five hundred pounds. The option of trial by jury and right of appeal to the Supreme Court was introduced at this time, although the system did not yet constitute a court of record.[18] Four of the incumbent assistant gold commissioners were appointed to serve as county court judges and assigned to the communities of New Westminster, Yale, Lillooet and Richfield.[19] The total complement of county court judges in the newly amalgamated colony of British Columbia was six, including the additional two appointed on Vancouver Island at the same time. These changes had little impact on court house construction on the mainland during the remainder of the colonial period. Colonial union in 1866 had been motivated by the deteriorating economic climate prevailing in both colonies, but the continuing decline in gold production during the late 1860s quickly dispelled hopes of improvement. The period was characterized by chronic government deficits generated primarily by construction of the Cariboo Road between 1862 and 1865. A direct consequence was the continual reduction of public works budgets from 1865 onwards which curtailed further court house construction during the pre-Confederation period - hence the postponement of a new building for New Westminster as well as other communities.[20] Magistrates had to make do with existing facilities which were rudimentary at best. In Richfield (formerly William's Creek), judicial and administrative centre for the Cariboo District, the "court house" consisted of an 1862 log building sixteen by twenty-two feet divided into a courtroom and judge's office (Fig. 3). This building was used



3 Court house, jail and other government buildings in Richfield. Built 1862-63. This photograph was taken ca. 1866 during the Barkerville gold rush. A traveller described the local architecture as neither Doric, Ionic nor Corinthian, but decidedly Columbian. It was here Judge Begbie held some of his most celebrated trials. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

for two decades. In Quesnel, slated plans to erect a court house in 1866 were indefinitely shelved, forcing the resident magistrate to alternate between rented quarters and a room in the local jail.[21] The existing facilities at other county court centres, notably Yale and Lillooet, were presumably little better.

Formal merger of the higher courts of Vancouver Island and British Columbia was delayed until one of the two incumbent chief justices died or retired from office. The chief justice of Vancouver Island retired in 1870, whereupon Matthew Baillie Begbie was installed as chief justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Thus the amalgamation of both Supreme and county court systems had been completed before Confederation. Personnel consisted of the chief justice along with a puisne judge for the Supreme Court, and six county court judges. The latter positions continued to be filled by lay personnel with little if any legal training, despite the growing number of trained barristers in the colony after 1863.

Apart from the brick Supreme Court Building in Victoria, British Columbia did not possess any permanent court houses before Confederation. Passage of the County Court Ordinance in 1866 resulted in the designation of a preliminary group of court and administrative centres, but construction of permanent facilities was effectively retarded by recurrent government deficits.

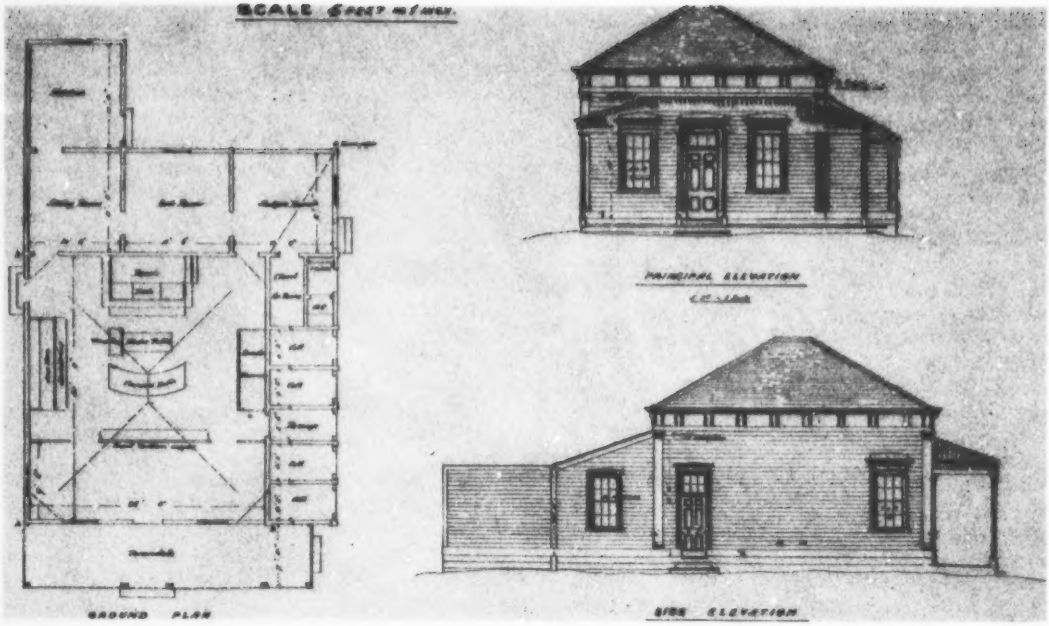
Post-Confederation, 1871-82

Among the inducements for British Columbia's entry into Confederation in 1871 was the Dominion Government's agreement to assume liability for the colony's existing debts. In one stroke the long-standing deficits incurred from road building and administrative costs were eliminated, while a variety of annual financial subsidies were acquired. Among the latter was the defrayment of salaries for judges of the Supreme and county courts in the new province. An immediate consequence for the existing judicial structure was the appointment of an additional puisne judge of the Supreme Court in 1872.[22]

Several structural changes occurred at the county court level in the following year with passage of the County Courts Extension Act. These included the merger of mining and county courts, thereby giving county court judges full jurisdiction and authority formerly exercised by assistant gold commissioners in addition to their civil jurisdictions. The non-judicial functions formerly performed by gold commissioners were transferred to a newly created group of officials known as government agents who combined the duties of court registrar for county courts and their other tasks.[23] This had direct repercussions for court house design in the province, for it perpetuated the policy of combining judicial and administrative functions within a single building. Henceforth the terms "court house" and "provincial government building" were used interchangeably to refer to structures housing these functions.

The novel experience of financial solvency immediately following Confederation resulted in a brief spurt of court house construction during the early 1870s. Long-needed buildings were erected at New Westminster, Nanaimo and Yale between 1871 and 1874. Each was of frame construction over a stone foundation, with court facilities located on the second floor above various administrative offices and jail facilities. Smaller buildings containing a courtroom, cells and living quarters were also erected at Clinton, Osoyoos and Kamloops during the same period. Surviving plans for the Clinton Court House give an indication of the primitive spatial arrangements in such buildings, with the courtroom flanked on one side by a row of cells opening onto the outer wall (Fig. 4). Facilities were still more austere in smaller towns, where frame or log lock-ups containing two or three cells in one half and a courtroom in the other were constructed. Trials at such locations were held periodically during county court circuits (Fig. 5).

British Columbia's post-Confederation solvency proved to be fleeting if not illusory; annual deficits reappeared in 1872 and persisted throughout the 1870s. At the root of the problem lay the continuing absence of a stable economic base for taxation. During the colonial period, government revenues had come primarily through taxation of gold production and related enterprises. With the steady decline of this source of income during



4 Plan for Court House and Lock-up, Clinton, British Columbia
Built 1874, destroyed ca. 1897. Prisoners' cells lined one side of the building, affording spectators a convenient view of the current inmates. Rooms at the rear accommodated the circuit judge on his periodic visits. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

5 "Judge" Haynes and local residents posed for this picture in front of the court house at Osoyoos in the Okanagan in 1876. Magistrate Haynes carried out various government duties in addition to hearing minor court cases in this building. It also served as his residence. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

6 Supreme Court House, Richfield
Built 1882; British Columbia Department of Public Works, architect. Built to accommodate a resident Supreme Court judge assigned to Richfield in 1882, this building replaced the log structure shown in Figure 3 and is currently the oldest surviving court house in the province. (A. Kerr, British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch)

the 1870s, the provincial government was left with dwindling financial resources despite its federal subsidies. This resulted in a policy of austerity and retrenchment which persisted throughout the decade.[24] As a result, few changes were made to the judicial systems before 1878, while those introduced after that date were aimed as much at reducing administrative costs as improving the effectiveness of the courts.

The centralization of Supreme Court functions in Victoria became a growing source of grievance for mainland residents who received its services only during the biannual assize circuits. Criticism of the existing county court system also mounted, primarily due to the low qualifications of its personnel.[25] The original group of county court judges appointed in 1866 remained in office until 1880, during which time no additional appointments were made.[26] The provincial government's response to the growing dissatisfaction was embodied in two acts passed in 1878 and 1879. The Better Administration of Justice Act of 1878 provided for the appointment of two additional Supreme Court judges, bringing the total in the province to five, with the stipulation that not less than three were to reside on

the mainland where they would preside over both county and Supreme Court litigations.[27] The Judicial Districts Act of 1879 divided the province into four vaguely defined judicial districts primarily for the purpose of billeting the newly designated resident judges. These consisted of the Westminster, Clinton, and Cariboo judicial districts on the mainland, in addition to the Victoria Judicial District which comprised Vancouver Island, the Kootenays, Cassiar, and any additional areas not included in the other three. Supreme Court judges were assigned to designated assize centres in each - New Westminster, Clinton, Richfield and Victoria, respectively. In addition to conducting periodic Supreme and lower court hearings within their respective districts, the judges were obliged to attend regular full court sessions in Victoria.[28] Their response to this attempt at decentralization was highly unfavourable. They argued the provincial government did not have the authority to affix conditions of residence upon judges whose appointment rested with federal authority under the terms of the British North America Act. They also questioned the legality of compelling Supreme Court judges to preside over county courts.[29] Despite these and other objections, the revisions were invoked in 1881 and the earlier county court system was dismantled and its lay magistrates retired.[30]

The changes did little to alleviate mainland criticisms of inadequate court services; instead, they resulted in a rapid deterioration of the lower court system which reached crisis proportions within two years. Nor did it result in much new court house construction, the only improvements being the small frame court houses at Yale and Richfield in 1882 to accommodate the reluctant Supreme Court judges assigned there. The latter is the earliest surviving court house in the province (Fig. 6).

Revised County Court System, 1883–98

The 1880s and 90s were a period of rapid growth and economic prosperity, resulting largely from construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a network of short lines which opened up new areas to settlement and mineral extraction. During this time the province's population more than trebled, climbing from around 50,000 to over 150,000 by the turn of the century. This growth imposed urgent demands for the revision and expansion of the province's judicial system. By 1883 the county court system had become essentially inoperable on the mainland. Provincial Secretary John Robson reported:

> Disputes remain unsettled to the disquietude of the community; debtors defy their creditors, and administration of the estates of deceased persons does not take place except through applications made at Victoria at undue expense...
> The system of districting the Judges of the Supreme Court has practically broken down, and the Judges do not reside in their districts....Owing to the great distances between some of the districts and Victoria, and the impracticability of travelling during the winter season, these districts...must of necessity be left without courts for an undue length of time.[31]

To remedy the situation, the provincial government passed the County Courts Act in 1883 which divided the province into clearly defined judicial counties for the first time, each of which was to be presided over by a resident higher court judge. These were as follows: 1) County Court of Victoria, serving Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, with the exception of Nanaimo and Comox; 2) County Court of Nanaimo; 3) County Court of New Westminster, consisting of the electoral districts of New Westminster, New Westminster City, along with the Hope, Yale and Lytton polling divisions of the Yale Electoral District; 4) County Court of Yale, including Cache Creek, Kamloops, Nicola Lake, Okanagan and Rock Creek polling divisions of the Yale Electoral District; 5) County Court of Cariboo, corresponding to the Lillooet and Cariboo electoral districts; and 6) County Court of Kootenay, corresponding to the Kootenay Electoral District.[32]

This physical framework formed the basis for judicial counties as they now exist in the province. Subsequent modifications consisted of additions, boundary alterations, and amplification of their use. A seventh district entitled the County Court of Vancouver was added in 1892; the County of Kootenay was subdivided into east and west sections four

years later in the wake of rapid regional growth. Before 1895 county divisions were applied solely for county court purposes; passage of the County Definition Act in that year extended their application for Supreme Court and various administrative functions as well.[33]

Appointment of county court judges was a gradual process, despite the transformation in structure. Although the 1883 act provided for their appointment, only one such judge was installed before 1889. Instead, the bulk of litigation for both levels of court continued to be assumed by the existing group of decentralized Supreme Court judges. The initial exception was the appointment of a county court judge to the County of Cariboo in 1884, apparently to free the incumbent Supreme Court judge to assume a more active post.[34] Three additional appointments were made in 1889 as the volume of litigation in the counties of Nanaimo, New Westminster and Yale reached justifiable levels, followed by a fifth appointment to the County of Kootenay after its division in 1896.[35]

With establishment of judicial counties came an inevitable demand for improved court facilities, particularly in areas of rapid settlement. A total of thirty-three buildings containing court facilities were erected in twenty-eight communities between 1883 and 1898 in what constituted the first concerted phase of court house construction in the province (Appendix C). These varied from small, multi-purpose frame structures meeting circuit court requirements in outlying communities, to substantial buildings, usually wood, but occasionally brick or stone, in many of the designated assize towns. In 1897 the latter group consisted of the following nine communities: Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, Kamloops, Nelson, Lillooet, Clinton and Richfield.[36] All but the last three received new court houses during this period.

This wave of new construction was ushered in with replacement of the original Supreme Court Building in Victoria by a new one of unprecedented size for the province in 1887. Curiously, the winner of the local architectural competition to select its design was H.O. Tiedeman, designer of the 1864 predecessor.

7 Supreme Court, Victoria

Built 1887-88; H.O. Tiedeman, architect. This was the first major court house built in the province after Confederation. It remained in use until 1962. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

Of more importance perhaps was the siting of the new building: whereas the Supreme Court had previously been located immediately adjacent to the Legislative Assembly, it was now moved to a separate location in another area of the city, thereby removing physical and visual associations between the province's courts and legislature (Fig. 7).

The issue of large expenditures on public buildings remained highly contentious in the province, aggravated by continuing budget deficits and strained relations between island and mainland.[37] Within this context, construction of a sophisticated public building in the capital posed a potential political liability, which the government took pains to dispel by assurances that utilitarian considerations had taken precedence over aesthetics. This was reflected in a contemporary description carried in the Victoria *British Colonist*.

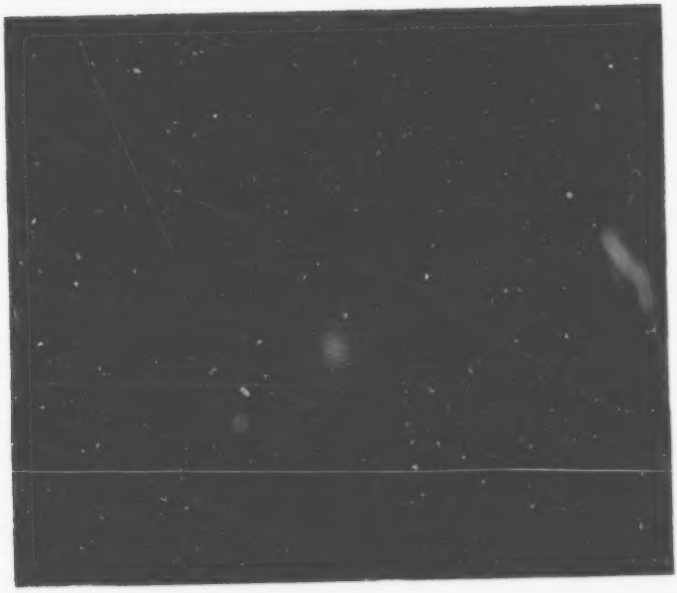
> In erection of the edifice, the builders have been bound down to no conventional style of architecture or arrangement. The requirements and convenience of the various departments have been first considered in every detail and the building planned to meet the requirements of the officials and the public. It has been built to supply a want long felt and not to display or illustrate the fancy of any architect.[38]

The Supreme Court Building in Victoria was followed by other architect-designed court houses in Nanaimo, New Westminster, Vancouver, Vernon and Nelson during the next five years. Government criteria for such designs appeared to be restricted to establishing cost ceilings with plans for all but the most diminutive public buildings being contracted out to private designers. The use of a competition to select plans for the Victoria building was an exception for subsequent plans were produced by architects resident in the respective communities whenever possible, with the predictable result being a wide diversity of styles ranging from a Romanesque design for New Westminster (Fig. 8) to a classical building in Vancouver[39] (Fig. 9). Use of brick or stone was largely confined to the four major coastal communities of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo. The exception was a two-storey brick building erected at Vernon, residence of the minister of Lands and Works, in 1892.[40]

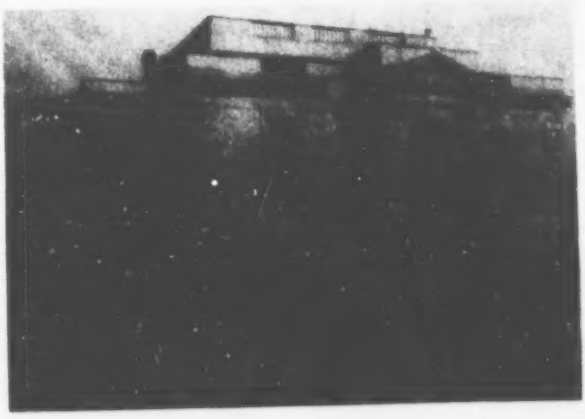
Nevertheless, a dominant figure did emerge in the field of public architecture during the 1890s. This was Francis Mawson Rattenbury, winner of the 1892 competition for the new Legislative Assembly Building, who received contracts for two court houses in 1894 and 1895. The first of these was a small frame building at Chilliwack, followed by the stone court house still standing in Nanaimo. The second is particularly noteworthy since it marked a transition toward the use of Picturesque architectural elements on a major court house in the province. Use of this architectural idiom seemed particularly appropriate in a province where the judiciary had long been seen as a vehicle for fostering social as well as institutional links with England. Rattenbury was the first of several English-trained architects practising in the province who reinforced this association through their court house designs. The major focal point was the interior layout of the courtroom, where a church-like atmosphere was created through the use of familiar Gothic elements, most notably open hammer-beamed ceilings and large stained glass windows "arranged as to throw light from behind the Judge's bench and from either side directly on the prisoner's dock."[41] This arrangement, calculated to impress both prisoner and public alike with the solemnity of the judicial process (hence the inclusion of large balconied visitors' galleries), became a standard feature in a succession of court houses erected post-1898. Externally, the building was described as "composite in character, the element of convenience having been taken into account by Mr. Rattenbury."[42] Viewed from the front, it features a massive, Romanesque arched main entrance surmounted by inset classical columns and flanked by symmetrical towers (Fig. 10).

The Nanaimo Court House established another significant precedent - the extensive use of local or British Columbian materials in its construction. Stone for the building's exterior was quarried in the vicinity, while domestic woods were used for interior walls and joinery. This practice was followed increasingly during the next decade and a half.

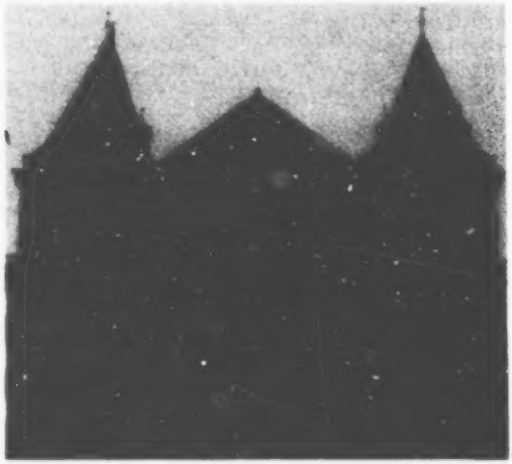
In smaller communities, court facilities continued to be built of wood with the exception of the 1892 Vernon building. Individual



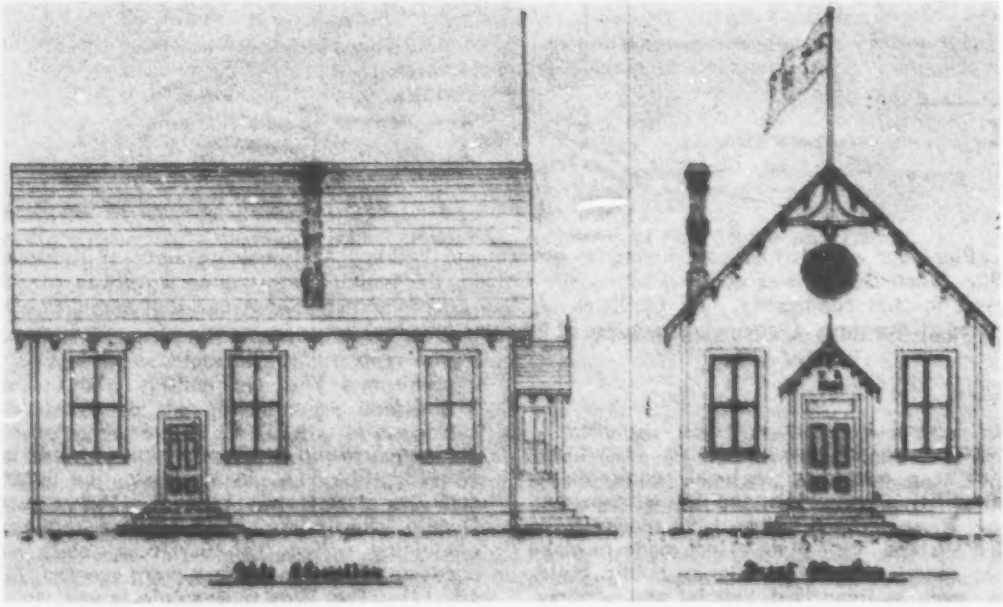
8 Court House, New Westminster, British Columbia
Built 1890-91, burned and reconstructed 1899-1900; G.W. Grant, architect. This photograph was taken ca. 1900. The building's Romanesque Revival design was marred by a succession of additions. (W.A. Carré, *Art Work on British Columbia*, 1900, n.p.)



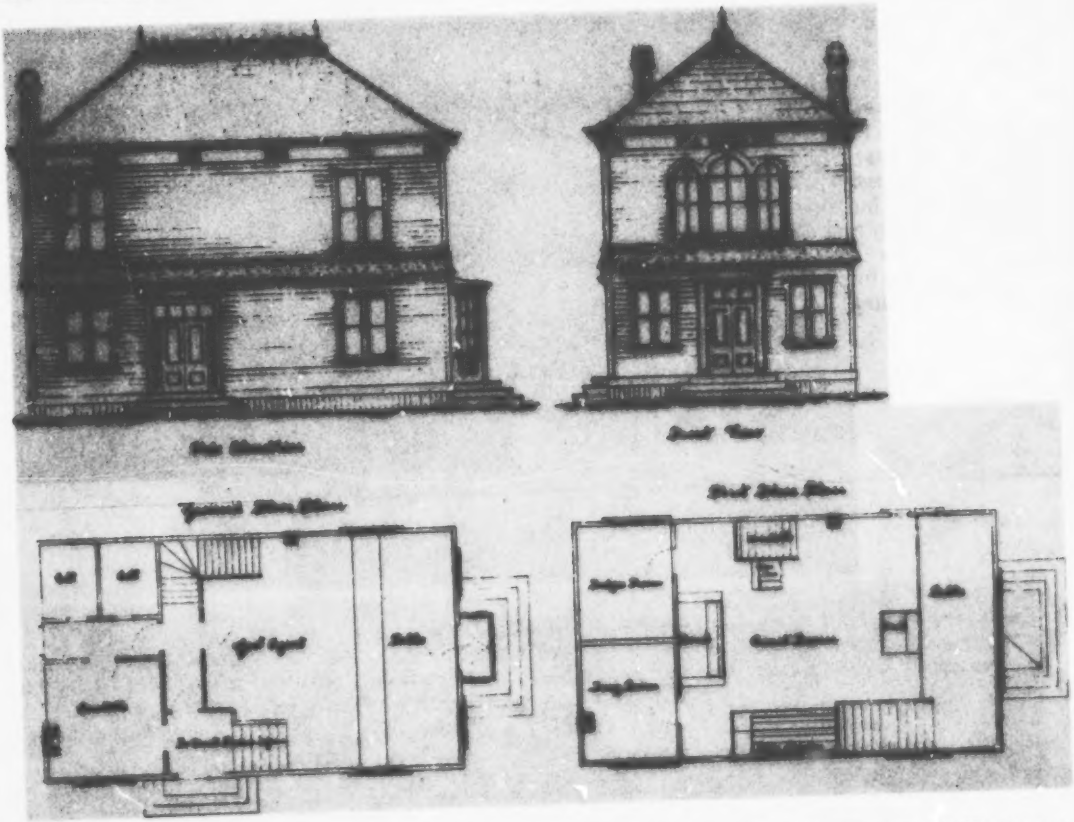
9 Vancouver Court House
Built 1888-90, demolished 1914; T.C. Sorby, architect. The architect previously designed a succession of similar classically inspired court houses in his native England. This was his only such commission in British Columbia. (City of Vancouver Archives)



10 Nanaimo Court House
Built 1895-96; F.M. Rattenbury, architect. This was the first of three major court house designs by Rattenbury. It established a policy of using local building materials for British Columbia court houses. The building also influenced the design of several later examples in the Interior. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



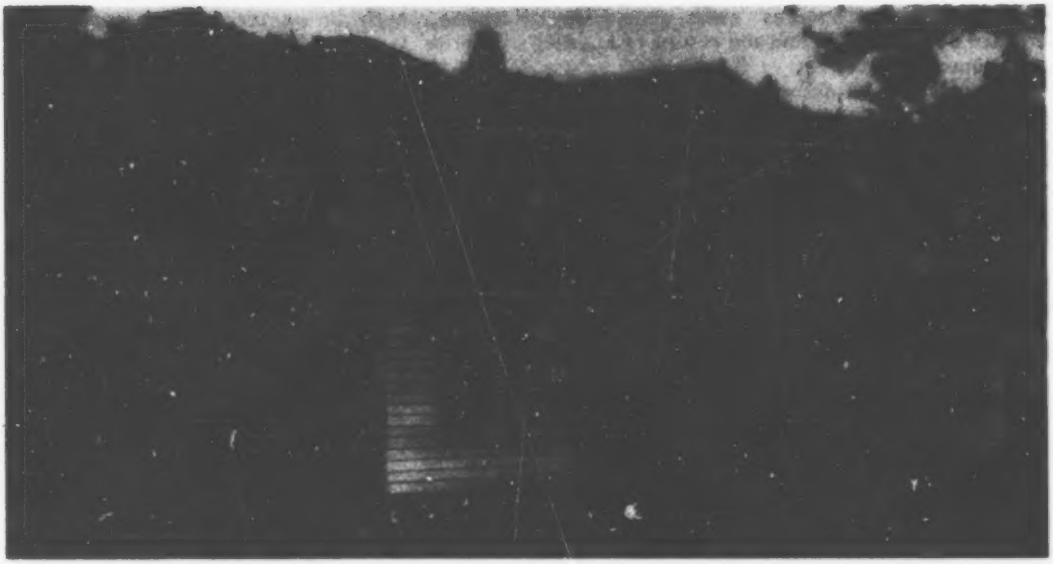
11 Plan for Court Houses at Ashcroft and Comox
Prepared by the Department of Lands and Works drafting office in 1891. Such buildings probably served as local meeting halls when circuit court was not in session. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)



12 Plans for a multi-purpose provincial government building at Donald, County of Kootenay, 1890. When Donald was eclipsed by nearby Golden, the building was put on a railway car and moved to that community. Its facilities typified government buildings in small administrative centres at the time. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

structures varied widely in size, layout and appearance according to local requirements, availability of materials, and date of construction. Those erected before 1893 tended to be more austere, with little effort made to make them readily distinguishable as public buildings, even in important judicial and administrative centres. Private architects do not appear to have been employed extensively for such structures. Instead, plans for minor utilitarian buildings such as the 1891 Comox and Ashcroft court houses were produced by draftsmen within the Department of Lands and Works[43] (Fig. 11). In administrative centres such as Kamloops, Lillooet, Midway and Donald, house-like multi-purpose buildings containing offices, a courtroom, cells, and occasionally living quarters were erected (Figs 12, 13). The Midway example, along with a somewhat later (1897) example at Fort Steele, remains standing though no longer in use for court or government purposes.

The year 1898 marked the defeat of an administration that had held power under a



13 Former Provincial Government Building, Midway, British Columbia
Built 1895. A rare surviving example of a multi-functional design employed for several small communities in the Interior. The building also contained living quarters for the government agent. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

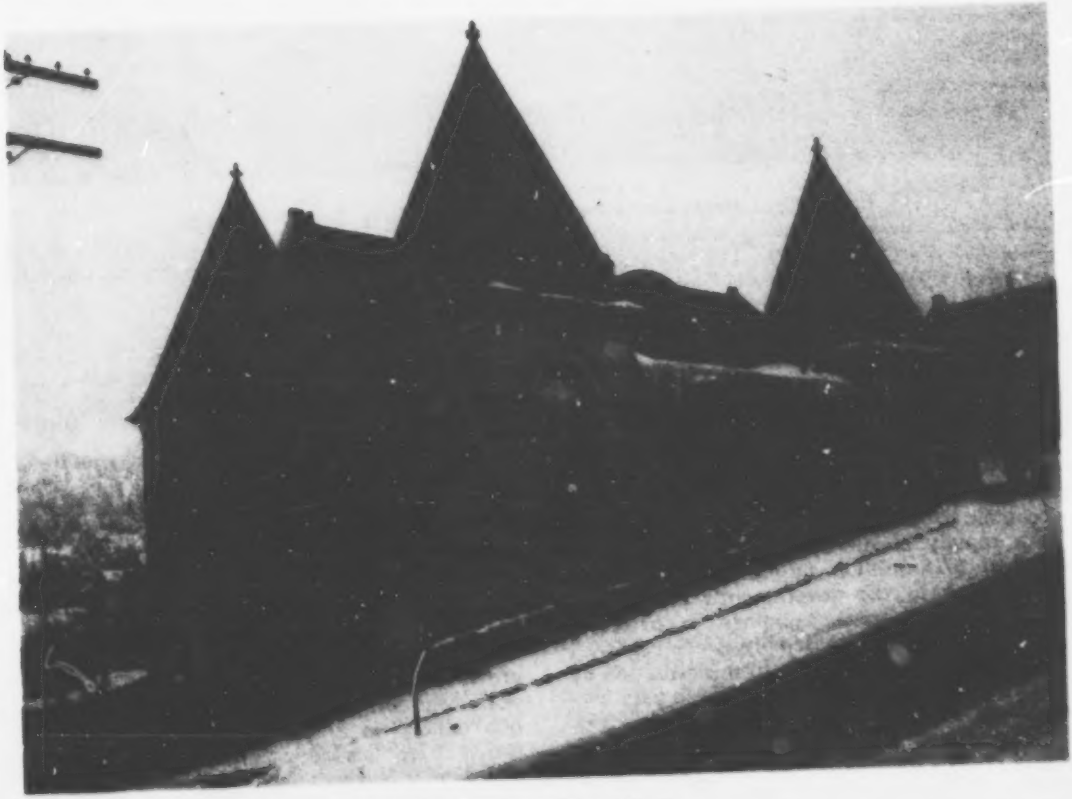
succession of premiers since 1883 and had therefore exercised a sustained influence over the reshaping of the court system and of public works policy in British Columbia. Paradoxically, although the period was one of rapid economic expansion, it was also characterized by a rapidly accelerating public debt which reached $7.5 million by 1898 and directly contributed to the government's downfall.[44] Expenditures on public buildings, in particular the new Legislative Assembly, were regarded a major factor contributing to this situation by government critics. This explains in part why a more systematic policy of court house construction was not implemented during the 1890s and in the years that immediately followed. Of the many buildings erected during the period, the majority were comparatively small frame structures which were quickly rendered obsolete in following years. Thus very few survive, these being the larger buildings located in Victoria, Nanaimo and New Westminster, along with the smaller frame examples at Fort Steele and Midway.

Peak in Court House Construction, 1898–1914

Although the Turner administration was defeated over the issue of an accelerating provincial debt in 1898, in the following five years the deficit rose an additional four million dollars as a series of minority governments tried unsuccessfully to cope with the problem. Nevertheless, the emergence of major mining and smelter communities in the Kootenay and Boundary areas and the new gold-rush town of Atlin in the remote northwest corner of the province imposed new demands for court and administrative facilities which could not be postponed. A total of

seven new court houses were accordingly erected between 1898 and the return of stable government in 1903.

The largest of these were two buildings erected at Rossland and Greenwood. Both constituted marked advancements in both size and cost over previous court houses erected in the Interior, with the possible exception of the earlier Vernon building. Designers of the two buildings were both English-trained architects then practising in the area, J.J. Honeyman of Rossland and George D. Curtis of Nelson. Honeyman's design for the Rossland building was reminiscent of the earlier Nanaimo Court House, both in exterior appearance and interior layout, while the Greenwood design was an eclectic composition of wood-frame construction, not dissimilar to larger school designs of the period (Figs 14, 15). In both buildings, interior layouts followed the practice of locating court facilities on the upper floor above government offices, with jail cells and police quarters located in the basement. Despite marked contrasts in external appearance, both court houses featured the timbered ceilings, stained glass, and upper spectators' galleries previously noted in the Nanaimo building[45] (Fig. 16).



14 Rossland Court House

Built 1898-1901; J.J. Honeyman, architect. This was one of the earliest brick court houses built outside the lower mainland and Vancouver Island, prompted by Rossland's emergence as an important mining centre. The building has undergone few interior or exterior changes from the date of its construction. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

15 Greenwood Court House
Built 1902-3; G.D. Curtis, architect. Greenwood was an unsuccessful mining and smelting boom town. With its decline the large wooden court house was used infrequently and eventually converted into the local city hall. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

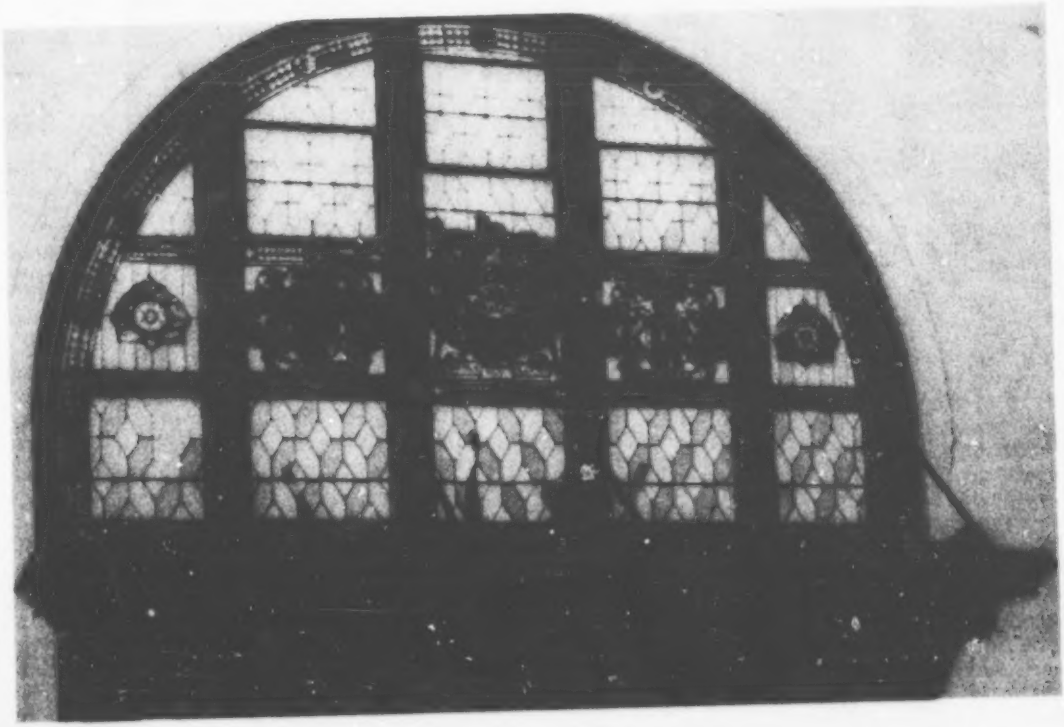
Both buildings represented major expenditures at the time, particularly in view of the boom-and-bust characteristics of mining towns in the Interior. In the case of Rossland, the investment proved sound for the community continued to grow as a major mining and smelting centre. Greenwood was less fortunate and declined with the collapse of the copper industry after World War I. Its large wooden court house accordingly found infrequent use, though it remained in service. The case load in the building during the town's early heyday offers an interesting glimpse at the social climate in an early mining community. At first glance the volume appeared high - 179 cases dealing with social infractions in 1907 alone. Of these, all but ten were related to charges of running or inhabiting houses of ill fame, suggesting either that prostitution was rampant or that the local police force was intent on eradication. In fact, neither was the case. When municipal officials discovered they could not tax illegal businesses, they chose to arrest and fine the operators on a monthly basis instead.[46]

Smaller multi-purpose buildings containing court facilities were erected in a succession of newly established Interior towns during this period. In most cases, this entailed the relocation of court and government facilities in new towns and earlier communities declined. Hence court and administrative facilities formerly located at Fort Steele were relocated in Cranbrook, the government office at Granite Creek was moved to a new building in Princeton, and most operations formerly conducted at Richfield were transferred to the more prosperous town of Cranbrook. In another instance, the previously cited government building at Donald was moved by rail to

a new location at nearby Golden. An exception to this trend of relocation occurred at Atlin in the remote northwest corner of the province, where a new building was erected in 1900 to house administrative and court facilities for the newly created County of Atlin established in the wake of a major gold rush in the area.[47] Like Greenwood, this community rapidly declined and its court house found infrequent use (Fig. 17).

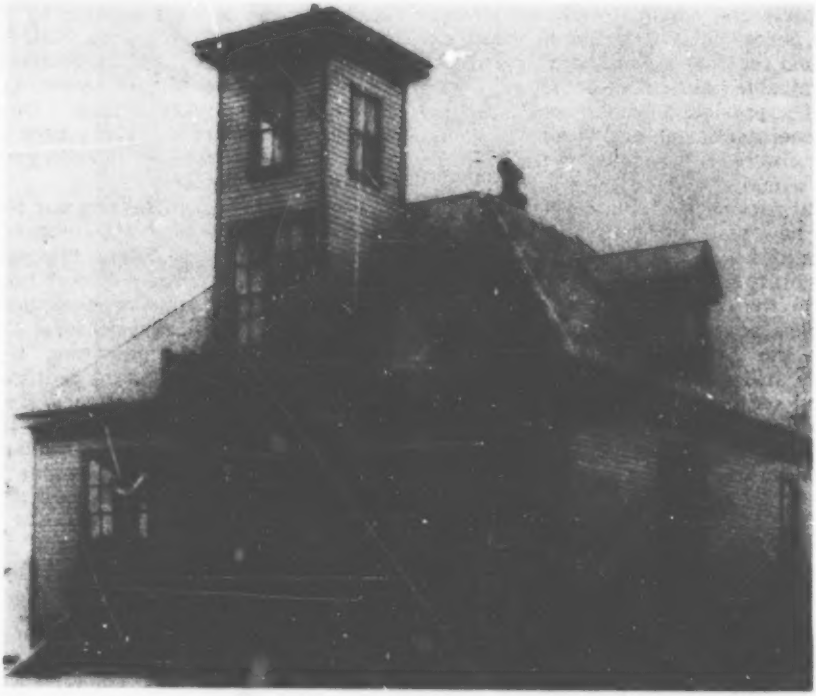
An important year in the political history of British Columbia, 1903 saw both the emergence of the party system and the election of a majority Conservative government, led by Richard McBride, which remained in office for the next twelve years. By 1903 the province's financial situation had deteriorated to the point where banks refused further credit. The McBride administration was elected on a platform calling for drastic reductions in public spending. Among the first steps taken was the shelving of all public works projects, "other than those absolutely necessary in the Public interests...."[48] This resulted in the cancellation of major court houses slated for Nelson and Cranbrook in that year.

Reduced expenditures coupled with increased taxation rapidly curbed the public debt, and the province returned to solvency within two years. A period of unprecedented surpluses followed between 1905 and 1910 - indeed the only such phase to occur in the



16 Rossland Court House

Built 1898-1901; J.J. Honeyman, architect. Large stained glass windows like this on the Rossland courtroom interior were a popular feature of many early court houses in the province. This one features the provincial coat of arms flanked by the heraldic crests of Governor Sir James Douglas and Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)



17 Atlin Provincial Government Building
Built 1900; Edward G. Garden, architect. By 1905 when this photo was taken, the local gold rush had subsided and the number of court cases held in the building was rapidly dwindling. It was used intermittently until the early 1950s. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

province before the 1920s. This new-found prosperity made possible a systematic upgrading of the judicial system, thereby ushering in the most vigorous phase of court house construction in the province's history. Impetus came from passage of the Revised County Courts Act in 1905. This legislation increased the total number of counties to nine by the formal division of the Kootenays into two separate counties. In addition, it extended the jurisdiction of the county court and called for the appointment of resident county court judges for each county. This terminated the practice of Supreme Court judges presiding over both levels of court.[49] Five new county court judges were appointed in 1905, raising the provincial total to eleven.[50] A further modification to the county system occurred in 1911 when the County of Atlin was superseded by the County of Prince Rupert, with judicial and administrative facilities centred in the latter community.[51]

A total of nineteen buildings containing court facilities were erected between 1905 and 1914 as a result of this expansion of the county court system. The majority of these were substantial architect-designed buildings replacing existing court houses in established judicial centres, with extensive construction taking place in the rapidly growing Kootenay and Yale counties (Appendix D). The McBride administration's pursuit of an extensive public building programme had multiple consequences aside from meeting obvious needs for

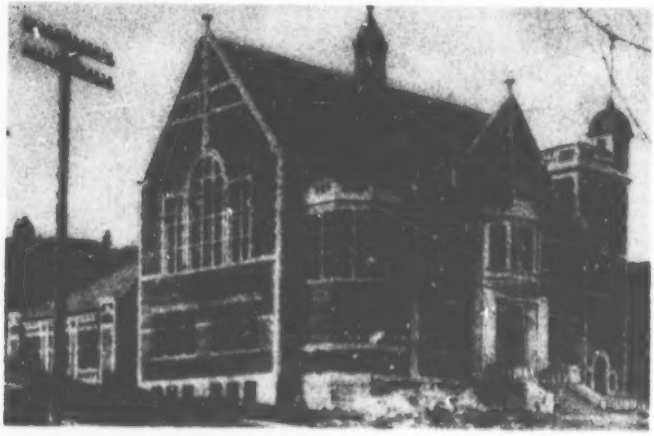
increased court and administrative facilities. It was also perceived as a means of stimulating local and regional growth, and as such it became a valuable political commodity. Construction of a provincial government building not only generated local employment but in some cases ensured a community's survival or dominance within a given region.[52] From an architectural aspect, such buildings generally established new standards within the respective communities (Fig. 18).

Responsibility for court house construction rested with the provincial Department of Public Works, acting in response to needs defined by the attorney general. As the former body still did not possess an internal architectural section, all major public building designs continued to be contracted out to private firms. Open competitions for such contracts were rare; instead, large court house designs came to be dominated by three major firms, Honeyman and Curtis, F.M. Rattenbury, and Thomas Hooper, who collectively accounted for nine of the twelve largest commissions executed during the period. On the other hand, construction contracts were awarded by public tenders, with preference given to local builders and suppliers.

The policy of contracting out the design of court houses to private architects resulted in a diversity of styles during the years of the McBride administration. Court house designs were less a reflection of ideological concerns than of broader architectural trends and varied considerably according to site and designer. Classical designs featuring symmetrical plans, imposing porticoes, stone columns and domes were favoured for large court houses, while intermediate-sized buildings featured asymmetrical Picturesque designs.[53]

18 Vernon Court House

Built 1911-14; Thomas Hooper, architect. Designating a site for a new court house often stimulated local building trades. In this case all exterior walls were constructed of locally quarried Okanagan granite. (City of Vernon Board of Museums & Archives)



19 Kamloops Court House

Built 1908-9; Honeyman and Curtis, architects. One of four court houses designed by the firm of Honeyman and Curtis in Interior towns. The local press praised the building's design for maintaining "the traditions of a good provincial type of architecture in England, very distinctly picturesque in general effect and pleasing in detail." (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

Honeyman and Curtis emerged as the most consistent designers of the latter group, possibly because their commissions were confined to Cranbrook, Kamloops and Fernie, where moderate-sized buildings were required (Figs 19, 20). On the other hand, Vancouver-based architect Thomas Hooper produced three neoclassical designs for Vernon, Revelstoke and the Vancouver annex (Fig. 21). Rattenbury was less consistent, designing a Picturesque court house for Nelson, but switching to a neoclassical plan for the larger Vancouver Court House (Figs 22, 23). In the latter community, the calculated visual impact of the domed and columned design evidently took priority over spatial considerations, despite the objections of the local bar association. A member later recalled:

> I remember when the new Court House was planned, a number of us went to the Attorney-General to suggest that an office building like the Cook County Court House in Chicago would prove more commodious and useful in years to come. We said that the immense central rotunda was very fine but took up a great deal of space that might be of better use than the capital effect Mr. Rattenbury had in mind....We had our ears pinned back on all proposals.[54]

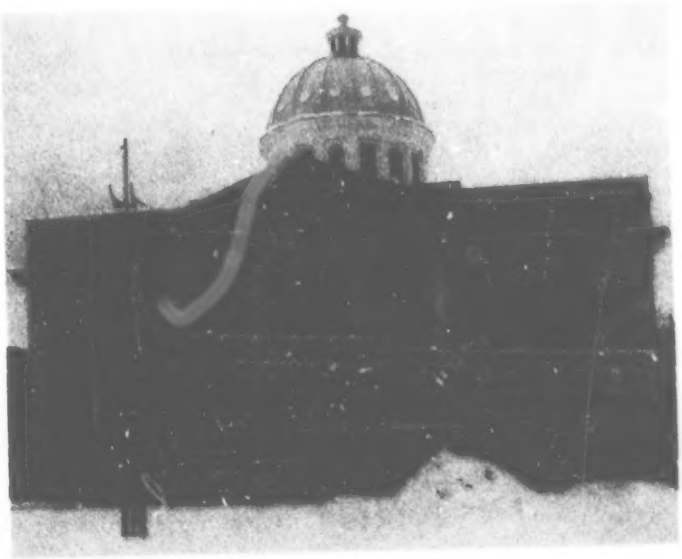
The fears of the Vancouver lawyers proved well founded, and construction of a costly rear annex commenced before the court house was completed in 1912.

Materials employed in court house construction varied according to building size and locale. Specifications generally called for the use of British Columbian materials when feasible. Court houses at Vancouver, Vernon and Nelson were constructed of locally or regionally quarried stone, while those at Kamloops, Fernie, Kaslo, Grand Forks and Revelstoke were built of brick with domestic stone trim. Steel and reinforced concrete building techniques were employed on large designs, most notably those at Vancouver and Revelstoke. Remaining court houses from the period were constructed of wood, usually over a rubble foundation.

Significant changes in interior spatial arrangements occurred during this period. These reflected a growing concern for the

20 Fernie Court House

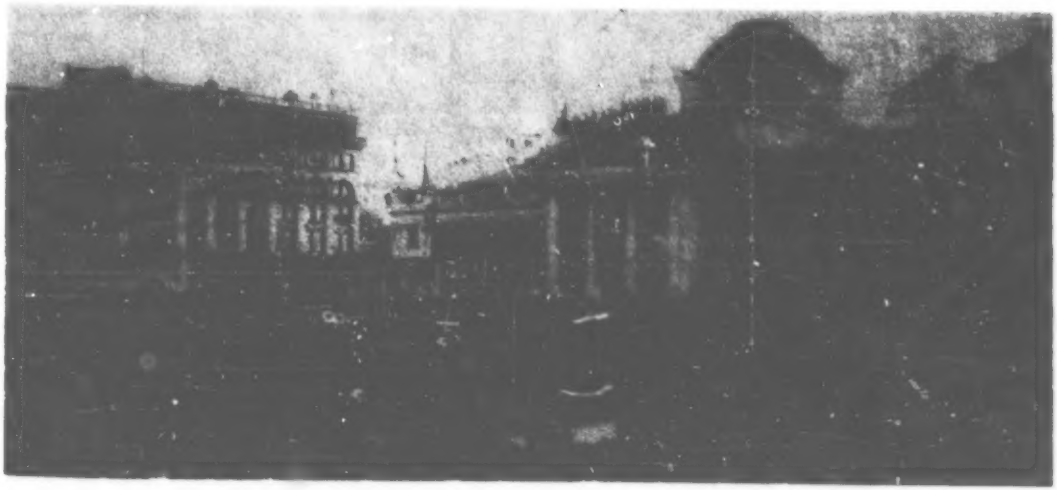
Built 1909-11; G.S. Rees, Honeyman and Curtis, architects. The building's château-like form is well suited to its mountainous setting. Its interior is highlighted by an impressive vaulted-roof courtroom finished in native cedar. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



21 Revelstoke Court House

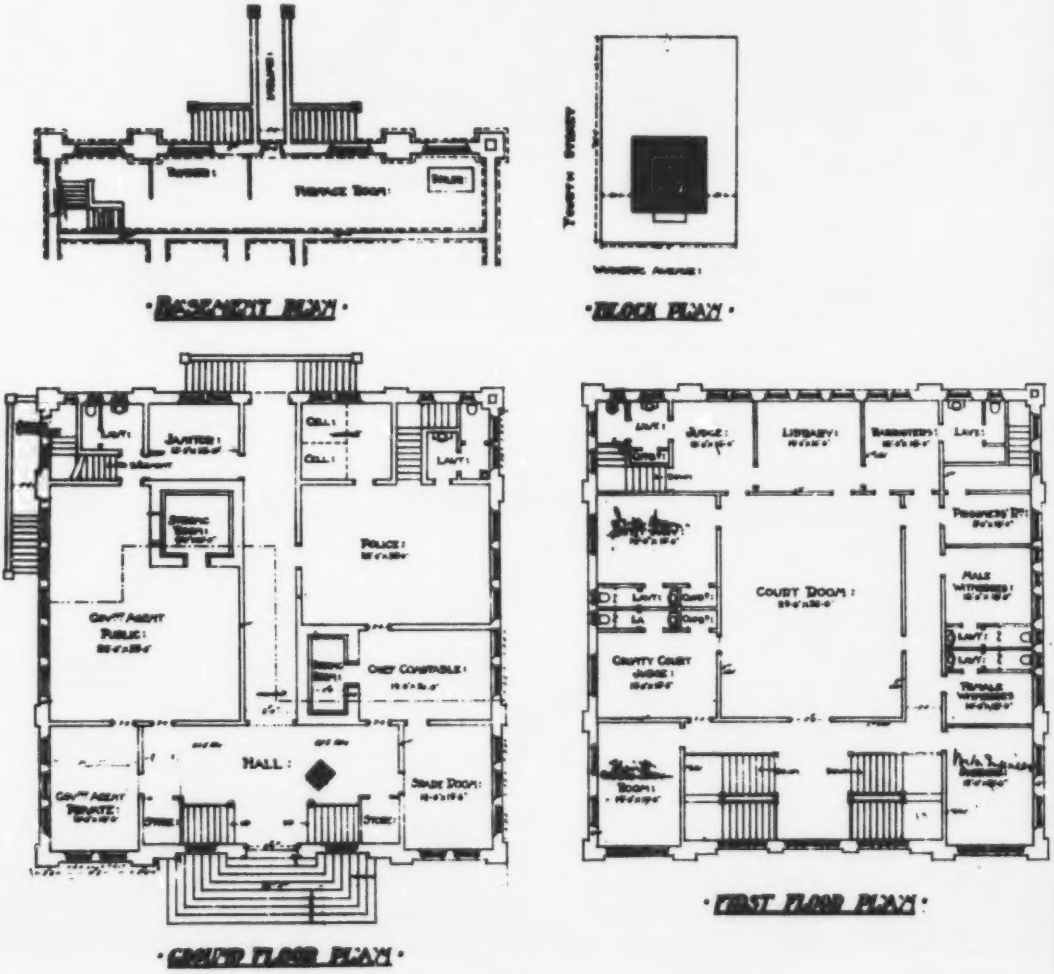
Built 1911-13; Thomas Hooper, architect. An imposing monumentality is achieved through the use of classical architectural elements and native granite and marble. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

22 Nelson Court House
Built 1907-9; F.M. Rattenbury, architect. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)



23 Vancouver Court House
Built 1909-11; F.M. Rattenbury, architect. Official opening of the building in 1912 by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The city had already outgrown the building by the time of its completion, and a rear annex was already under construction. (City of Vancouver Archives)

insulation of the court chamber from external noise and distractions, which characterized current court house design theory readily available through contemporary architectural journals.[55] While provincial architects continued to employ vaulted open-trussed ceilings and elevated visitors' galleries to attain an appropriately solemn atmosphere, particularly in Picturesque designs, efforts were increasingly made to reduce the amount of courtroom exposure to exterior walls. The desire to curb external distraction led in turn to the less frequent use of windows as visual focal points within the chamber. Thus large stained glass



24 Building plans for the court house at Grand Forks, British Columbia. Built 1911-12; R. Farrar Lawrence, architect. An increasing desire to eliminate exterior noise and distraction resulted in court houses designed to insulate the courtroom from exterior walls, as evident in this example. (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

25 Former Provincial Court House at Nicola, British Columbia
Built 1914; British Columbia Department of Public Works, architect. One of a pair of identical buildings erected in communities just seven miles apart. When Nicola was surpassed by nearby Merritt, its court house was closed. For many years it has been used as a ranch house although the court house inscription remains above the door. (Mrs. Joanne Drake)

windows which had been an integral element of court design during the preceding decade were confined increasingly to areas such as foyers, staircases and offices. The introduction of electrical air circulating systems towards the end of the period permitted further reductions in the use of natural lighting. As a result, the courtroom was located increasingly in a central area on the second floor, surrounded on three or even all four sides by offices, corridors or foyers (Fig. 24).

Court house construction before 1914 was characterized by spiralling costs which continually exceeded initial budgetary ceilings. As long as the administration enjoyed annual surpluses, this had no apparent influence on public works policy. A prolonged recession began in 1912 which eventually brought all construction in the province to a standstill and also ushered in a lengthy phase of government deficits. Although extensive court house construction continued until 1915, this consisted primarily of the completion of large buildings underway at the outset of the recession. The subsequent production of designs for frame court houses at Merritt, Nicola and Quesnel by the Department of Public Works' engineering section, in an apparent effort to minimize costs, ended the province's lengthy reliance on private architectural firms for court house design (Fig. 25).

Post-1914: Decline in Court Expansion

The collapse of the McBride government in 1915 was followed by five years of retrenchment during which few modifications were made to the province's court systems. No

legislation affecting the existing framework or county structure occurred until 1924, while additional judicial appointments were confined to two at the county court level.[56] This levelling trend was in turn reflected in a dearth of court house construction. Activity in this area was confined to an addition to the New Westminster building between 1915 and 1916. No construction of any sort occurred again until 1919.

Notable modifications did occur within the Department of Public Works in 1918. Among these was the establishment of a small architectural design section under the direction of a supervising architect[57] named Henry Whittaker, an English-trained architect who had practised privately in Victoria since 1914.[58] Whittaker retained the position for the next thirty-one years and thus exercised considerable influence over subsequent public building design in the province.

Court house construction resumed in 1919 with the erection of a modest frame multi-purpose building in the isolated community of Ocean Falls. During the following decade an additional eleven were built, primarily in small communities in the central and northern interior areas of the province. The majority of these were utilitarian frame structures of uninspired design, all produced under Whittaker's direction.[59] Such buildings followed the established pattern of combining administrative offices for local government agents and departments with court facilities.

26 Salmon Arm Court House

Built 1929-30; British Columbia Department of Public Works, architect. The Tudor Revival motif became a common feature of provincial government buildings during the 1920s and 30s. (Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

Offices, cells and living accommodations for local police detachments were also incorporated in most. The trend towards sophisticated interior spatial arrangements evident in pre-1915 court houses was largely abandoned in favour of economy. This was particularly apparent in small designs where little or no attempt was made to segregate court facilities from administrative offices. Exterior design was similarly subdued generally - minor devices such as cupolas and half-timbered front porches frequently served as the only notable embellishment, particularly on small buildings erected during the early and mid-1920s. Toward the end of the decade provincial government buildings were made more readily identifiable by using half-timbering as a major exterior decorative feature. This marked the first instance of a systematic adoption of an architectural idiom as a "provincial style," and followed in the wake of Tudor Revival's popularization as a residential style in Victoria and Vancouver during the first decade of the century.[60] Generally, half-timbering was simply applied as a superficial decorative veneer to otherwise austere, box-like structures, as typified by the 1929 Princeton Court House. A rare exception was the more sophisticated design employed for the Salmon Arm Court House a year later (Fig. 26). The style continued to appear on small provincial government buildings throughout the 1930s.

Only one post-1915 court house rivalled the large pre-war examples in cost and scale: the 1921 Prince Rupert building, a two-storey, stone-trimmed brick structure which was the last to employ classical detailing in the province.

Conclusion

The past two and a half decades have seen the rapid growth of new court facilities in the lower mainland/greater Vancouver region and gradual consolidation and replacement of early buildings in other areas. This has resulted in the disappearance of many distinctive frame examples, notably in Duncan, Cumberland, Chilliwack and Cranbrook. In addition, a large percentage of surviving pre-1930 examples no longer function as court houses or have undergone thorough renovations.

A total of twenty-five surviving British Columbian court houses were examined, including all known pre-1914 examples along with a representative cross-section from the 1915-30 period. The distribution of these buildings is as follows: County of Victoria, 1; County of Nanaimo, 1; County of Vancouver, 1; County of Westminster, 1; County of Yale, 9; County of Kootenay, 7; County of Cariboo, 2; County of Prince Rupert, 3.

Seven examples survive from the pre-1900 period, including three small frame buildings at Richfield, Fort Steele and Midway. The former two are presently incorporated in provincial historic park complexes. Of the remaining four, the New Westminster Court House has been extensively renovated and appears slated for demolition soon. The 1887 Supreme Court Building in Victoria remains in excellent condition although no longer employed for court purposes. The 1896 and 1898-1900 buildings at Nanaimo and Rossland remain in good condition and are outstanding survivors from the initial phase of major court house construction in the province.

Many of the brick and stone court houses from the 1903-14 period are extant and in use. Of the Picturesque examples at Kamloops, Nelson and Fernie, the latter is particularly noteworthy due to the absence of interior alterations. All three neoclassical designs at Vernon, Revelstoke and Vancouver survive, although the latter no longer functions as a court house. Outstanding frame examples from the period are the 1900 Atlin building, no longer functional and unfortunately removed from its original site, and the 1903 Greenwood building, almost unchanged from the time of its construction and now owned by the city of Greenwood.

Appendix A. Court Facilities, Colonial Period, Pre-1871

Victoria	1853-60	various temporary quarters
Victoria	1860	Supreme Court House
Nanaimo	1860	temporary accommodation in residence
New Westminster	1860	Supreme Court House
Fort Langley	1858-59	temporary Supreme Court facilities
Lillooet	1859	temporary quarters, assistant gold commissioners
Lytton	1859	
Yale	1859	
Douglas	1859	
Quesnel	ca. 1862	rented quarters, stipendiary magistrate
Van Winkle	1862	temporary quarters, assistant gold commissioner
Richfield (William's Creek)	1862	court house
Rock Creek	1862-64	assistant gold commissioner's quarters
Osoyoos (Sooyoos)	1862-64	assistant gold commissioner's temporary quarters
Wild Horse Creek	1864	assistant gold commissioner's quarters

Appendix B. New Court Facilities, 1871-82

Clinton	1876	court house
Comox	1877	lock-up with court facilities
Cowichan	1877	lock-up with court facilities
Granville	1878	lock-up with court facilities
Kamloops	1873	provincial government building (court house)
Laketon (Cassiar)	1878	lock-up with court facilities
** Laketon (Cassiar)	1879	prov. government building
Nanaimo	1871	court house
New Westminster	1872-73	court house
Osoyoos	1874	prov. government building
* Richfield	1882-83	court house
Yale	1874	court house
Yale	1882	court house

Appendix C. New Court Facilities, 1883-98

County of Victoria	* Victoria	1887-88	court house
	Chemainus	1889	court house
	Duncan	1891	court house
County of Nanaimo	Nanaimo	1887	court house
	* Nanaimo	1895-96	court house
	Comox	1891	court house

		Cumberland (Union)	1896	court house
		Port Alberni	1892	court house
County of Westminster	*	New Westminster	1890-91	rebuilt 1898
		Chilliwack	1894	court house
		Granville	1883	court house
		Vancouver	1888	court house
		Vancouver	1891	major addition
County of Yale		Granite Creek	1887	recorder's office
		Greenwood	1898	lock-up with court facilities
		Kamloops	1885-86	prov. government building
		Nicola	1884	lock-up with court facilities
		Vernon	1891	court house
	*	Midway	1895	government building
County of Cariboo		Ashcroft	1891	court house
		Hazelton	1888	lock-up with court facilities
		Lillooet	1886	lock-up with court facilities
		Lillooet	1891	court house
County of Kootenay		Donald	1890	prov. government building
		Fort Steel	1889	prov. government building
	*	Fort Steel	1897	prov. government building
		Grand Forks	1897	prov. government building
		Nelson	1893	court house
		New Denver	1894	prov. government building
		Farwell	1885	prov. government building
		Revelstoke	1897	prov. government building
		Rossland	1895	prov. government building
		Windermere	1888	prov. government building
		Kaslo	1894	prov. government building
		Fernie	1898	prov. government building

Appendix D. New Court Facilities, 1898-1914

County of Victoria		Ladysmith	1904	prov. government building
County of Vancouver	*	Vancouver	1906-12	court house
	*	Vancouver	1912-14	court house annex
County of Westminster		nil		
County of Yale	*	Greenwood	1902-3	court house
	*	Kamloops	1909	court house
		Princeton	1900	prov. government building
	*	Nicola	1913-14	court house
	*	Merritt	1913-14	court house
	*	Revelstoke	1911-12	court house
	*	Vernon	1912-14	court house
County of Cariboo		Fort George	1910	prov. government building
		Prince George	1911-13	prov. government building
		Quesnel	1899	court house
		Quesnel	1912-13	court house
County of East Kootenay		Cranbrook	1899	lock-up with court facilities
		Cranbrook	1906	court house
		Fernie	1899	lock-up with court facilities
		Fernie	1907-8	court house (burned)
	*	Fernie	1909-11	court house (burned)

	Golden	1899	prov. government building (moved from Donald)
County of West Kootenay	* Grand Forks	1912-13	court house
	* Kaslo	1910-11	prov. government building
	* Nakusp	1909-10	prov. government building
	* Nelson	1907-9	court house
	* Rossland	1898-1900	court house
County of Prince Rupert	*Atlin	1900	prov. government building
(before 1911 County of Atlin)	**Port Simpson	ca. 1906	prov. government building
	Prince Rupert	1908	court house

Appendix E. New Court Facilities, 1915-30

County of Victoria	nil		
County of Nanaimo	nil		
County of Vancouver	nil		
County of Westminster	* New Westminster	1915-16	court house addition
County of Yale	* Princeton	1929-30	prov. government building
	** Oliver	1925	court house
	* Salmon Arm	1930	prov. government building
County of Cariboo	* Ashcroft	1925	purchase of existing 1911 building and conversion into court house
	*** Clinton	1926	court house
	*** Lillooet	1927	court house
	Prince George	1922	purchase of 1915 hotel building and conversion into court house
	Williams Lake	1922	court house
County of Kootenay	* Invermere	1928-29	prov. government building
County of Prince Rupert	** Ocean Falls	1919-20	court house
	* Smithers	1925-26	prov. government building
	* Prince Rupert	1922	court house

---

* Surviving 1977.
** Present status unknown.
*** Surviving, extensively renovated.

CONCLUSION

Margaret Carter

As the physical symbol of law and order, Canadian judicial buildings constitute a familiar form of public building to most citizens. They have provided settings for many important historical events, ranging from the Confederation debates to the rendering of major judicial decisions. On a more immediate level, they are an integral part of our social fabric, for the Canadian legal system is participatory in organization, encouraging citizens to play an active role in judicial proceedings.

Court houses were often consciously created to evoke images of justice and stability by their architects and builders. Many were excellent examples of period architecture when built and remain visually impressive today. As a result, most individual court houses have been considered historically and architecturally important to their communities. In spite of this interest in specific judicial buildings, however, this study attempts to link their historical and architectural features and address the court house as a building type in Canada.

As the preceding essays demonstrate, the perspective is a useful one. From a Canadian point of view it is clear that despite common characteristics of scale and particular patterns caused by the exercise of construction authority, the time period and local conditions within which court houses were built had the most profound influence on their appearance. Since this study of judicial buildings is the first to examine a functional building type on a national basis, it will be interesting to see whether the dominance of regional influences it suggests is peculiar to court houses or is more generally applicable to Canadian architecture. Before such wide-ranging conclusions can be drawn, of course, similar studies must be performed on other building types. The only task remaining to render this present court house study useful to such an overview is an outline of the limitations and parameters of the work undertaken.

The most important of these is the definition used for the term "court house," a clear answer to the question, What buildings were included in this study? Investigations were confined to judicial buildings that accommodated courts at or above the county or district level, since these levels generated the need for specialized facilities. (Buildings were rarely erected to house citizenship, petty or magistrate's courts; consequently, they do not form a part of this study.) The majority of buildings considered here were built as court houses. As for those not used as court houses for the majority of their life span, the accommodations they provided were considered to have been indications of satisfactory judicial facilities by virtue of use. Buildings constructed as court houses but later adapted for other purposes have also been reviewed for contemporary ideas about the architectural requirements of the judicial accommodations incorporated in their designs.

This study is based primarily on court houses that still existed in 1976-77 when the study began. Some information on judicial buildings demolished before that date was also collected which contributed significantly to our understanding of the role and composition of the early Canadian court house. However, the conclusions of the study have undoubtedly been determined by the strong reliance on data collected about "the survivors."

One further limitation placed on the work was the imposition of a cut-off date, since the intention of the study was to discuss only early court houses. At first, the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building's pre-World War I cut-off date of 1914 was applied across Canada; however, this limitation included most eastern court houses but excluded a substantial proportion of western court houses. To balance the contents of the study, the cut-off date in western Canada and northern Ontario was therefore extended to 1930.

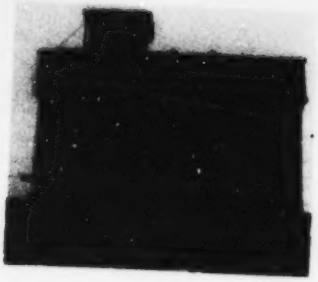
Every extant court house in Canada within the parameters of the study's definition was individually researched to supply complete, reliable information for inclusion in the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, and to compile comparative information on buildings of the type. To this end, each court house

was examined in the following subject areas: date of construction; architects, builders and craftsmen; the uses or functions it served through time; the agencies that built or occupied it; exterior design; interior configuration; construction materials and techniques; alterations; and the importance of its location in the county or district it served. Pertinent plans, elevations and photographs, both historical and modern, were also collected to illustrate and document evidence given in these reports. Specific historical sources available on provincial, county and municipal levels were systematically examined in addition to major historical and architectural works to provide the broadest possible base for interpretation.

Reports on the 192 early court houses that still existed at the time of review (1976-77) were compiled using this method. Their geographical distribution is as follows: Newfoundland, nine; Nova Scotia, seventeen; Prince Edward Island, eight; New Brunswick, thirteen; Quebec, thirty-seven; Ontario, forty-two; Manitoba, ten; Saskatchewan, seventeen; Alberta, thirteen; British Columbia, twenty-four; Yukon, two. Readers wishing access to this comprehensive range of material may obtain it in Parks Canada's Manuscript Report Series, an unpublished, unedited collection available in national, provincial and territorial archives. A brief summary of the tombstone data collected on the cast of court houses investigated is given in the appendix that follows.

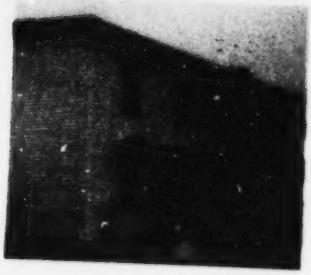
Information research on these buildings has provided a base for this study. Certainly, more specific conclusions were drawn than are outlined here. This work explores only the major themes that have emerged in our examination of the court house as a building type in Canadian architecture.

APPENDIX



1 Court House
Coster Street, Bonavista, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1897-99[1] by Robert Strathie, George Verge and Robert Tucker[2]
Renovations: 1953-77[3]
Architect: William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Newfoundland. Archives, Board of Works Collection - Minute Books - 1899-1903, p. 99.
2 Ibid., 1895-97, p. 358.
3 Interview with F.G. Squires, 21 June 1977.

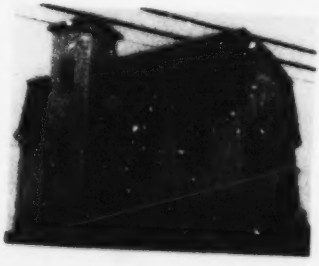


2 Court House
2 Main Street, Brigus, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1883-84,[1] builder unknown
General Renovations: 1950s
Architect: John T. Nevill, inspector of public buildings[2]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house and town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Newfoundland. Legislature, Journal of the House of Assembly, 1884 (St. John's: Queen's Printer, 1885), Appendix, pp. 30 and 413.
2 Ibid., 1883, Appendix, p. 435.

3 Former Court House
2 Main Street, Burin, Newfoundland
Constructed: ca. 1903,[1] builder unknown
Architect: William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings[2]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 A tentative date based on a comparison with other court houses in Newfoundland which suggests the existing building is an improved version of the edifices constructed at Bonavista, Greenspond, St. George's, Placentia, Trinity and Bell Island between 1897 and 1903.
2 All previous court houses designed by Department of Public Works of Newfoundland.



4 Old Court House and Museum
Greenspond, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1900-1901,[1] probably by J.J. Mifflin[2]
Renovations: Tower roof removed, date unknown
Architect: Probably William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings[3]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house, jail and offices
Present Use: Museum, auditorium and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 "New Court House," Evening Telegram (St. John's), 4 Sept. 1900, p. 4.
2 Newfoundland. Archives, Board of Works Collection - Minutes Books - 1899-1903, p. 248.
3 Ibid.

5 Court House
16 Harvey Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1830-31,[1] designed and built by Patrick Keogh (Keough)[2]
Renovations: 1872-73, 1855-56, jailer's residence 1894-95, jail yard wall rebuilt 1976-77[3]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Newfoundland. Archives, GN2/2, 1830, p. 147; ibid., T. Dawson to J. Campbell, 1 Aug. 1831, p. 23.
2 Newfoundlander (St. John's), 29 July 1830, p. 2.
3 Newfoundland. Legislature, Journal of the House of Assembly, 1874 (St. John's: Queen's Printer, 1875), Appendix, pp. 288-93; ibid., 1894, Appendix, p. 130; "New Appointment to Court House," Daily News, 5 Apr. 1937, p. 13; Newfoundland. Legislature, Estimates, 1936-1955 (St. John's: Queen's Printer, 1956), p. 127.

6 Court House
1 Main Street, Placentia, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1902,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Tower roof removed ca. 1955[2]
Architect: Probably William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings[3]
Material: Wood frame
Use: Court house, jail, postal telegraph and customs offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Cornerstone.
2 Interview with Mr. Gus Mooney, former caretaker, 14 June 1977.
3 Newfoundland. Legislature, Journal of the House of Assembly, 1902 (St. John's: King's Printer, 1903), Appendix, p. 92.

7 Court House (No Photo)
1 Court House Road, St. George's, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1903-4,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Interior rearrangements 1943 and 1952[2]
Architect: William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings[3]
Material: Wood frame
Use: Court house, jail and offices

1 Newfoundland. Department of Public Works. Plans for the Court House, St. George's, Newfoundland. William Henry Churchill, architect, dated 11 July 1903.
2 Newfoundland. Department of Public Works. Plans for Renovations to the Court House, St. George's, Newfoundland, 4 Sept. 1952.
3 See footnote 1.

8 Court House
194 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1901-4[1] by Samuel Manners Brookfield[2]
Architect: William H. Greene[3]
Material: Cut stone, wood framing for floors
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 "Supreme Court," Daily News (St. John's), 3 May 1904, p. 3.
2 "House of Assembly," Telegram (St. John's), 8 May 1900, p. 3.
3 Ibid.

9 Trinity Court House and General Building
2 Dock Lane, Trinity, Newfoundland
Constructed: 1903,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: 1960s and 1973,[2] tower roof removed ca. 1952, clock removed at unknown date
Architect: William Henry Churchill, superintendent of public buildings[3]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house, jail and postal telegraph offices
Present Use: Offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

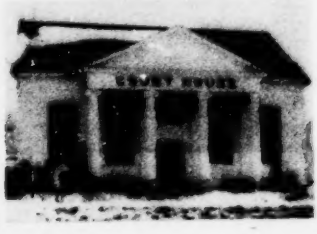
1 Newfoundland. Legislature. Journal of the House of Assembly, 1903 (St. John's: King's Printer, 1904), Appendix, p. 98.
2 Interview with Mr. Rupert Morris, 16 June 1977; Newfoundland. Department of Public Works, Plans for Renovations, Trinity Public Building, dated June 1973.
3 Newfoundland. Legislature, Journal of the House of Assembly, 1903 (St. John's: King's Printer, 1902), Appendix, p. 92.

10 Cumberland County Court House
50 Victoria Street, Amherst, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1888-89,[1] builder unknown, building committee and contractor possibly the designers[2]
Renovations: Addition to rear ca. 1960, interior ca. 1974
Material: Sandstone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, The Pridham's Studio Ltd., Amherst, Nova Scotia)

1 Amherst, Nova Scotia. Municipal Offices, Minute Book, 19 Jan. 1888, p. 24.
2 Ibid., 20 Apr. 1888, p. 63.

11 Annapolis County Court House
377 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1837[1] by Francis LeCain;[2] grand jury and Francis LeCain, designers[3]
General Renovations: 1922-23[4]
Material: Wood and granite
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG34-301, Series P (Eastern District), Vol. 2, Apr. 1836.
2 Ibid., Nov. 1836.
3 Ibid.
4 Proceedings of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Annapolis County, Nova Scotia (Bridgetown: Monitor, 1922), Annual Session 1922, p. 7.



12 Antigonish County Court House
Court Street, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1855, designed and built by Alexander McDonald[1]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house and municipal offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

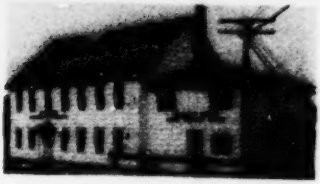
1 Interview, Mr. Joseph D. Chisolm, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, grandson of Alexander McDonald.

13 Richmond County Court House
Arichat, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1846-47, designed and built by Alexander McDonald[1]
Renovations: Capital letters boxed 1967[2]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

1 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG5, Series GP, Vol. 1, Misc. A 1849: re court house at Arichat, "Petition of Alexander McDonald to Lieut.-Governor Sir John Harvey," 14 Mar. 1849.
2 Interview, Mr. John Burke, Arichat, Nova Scotia, county clerk, Nov. 1976.

14 Victoria County Court House
Chebucto Street, Baddeck, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1889-90,[1] builder unknown
General Renovations: 1974 and extension for municipal offices 1967[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Granite and wood
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

1 Nova Scotia. Legislature. General Assembly, Statutes of Nova Scotia (Halifax: Queen's Printer, 1889), 1889, p. 211.
2 Interview, Mr. J.A. Bennet, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, county clerk, Nov. 1977.



15 Old Court House
Barrington, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1841-43,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Extension 1890-91, general interior renovations and additions ca. 1970[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.K. McCormick, Barrington, Nova Scotia)

1 Nova Scotia. Legislative. House of Assembly, Acts of the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia 1841 (Halifax: Royal Gazette, 1841), p. 86; interview, Mr. Fry, Barrington, Nova Scotia, municipal clerk-treasurer, Aug. 1977.
2 Correspondence, Roland K. McCormick, Barrington, Nova Scotia, 9 Aug. 1977.

16 Lunenburg County Court House
80 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1892-93,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Registry office removed 1960s
Architect: Probably George or Fred Boehner[2]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house
(Hebb's Photography, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia)

1 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG35-317, Series P, Vol. 1, p. 3, 1 Feb. 1893, p. 78.
2 Ibid., RG35-317, Elective Municipal Government of Lunenburg, P 3, 12 Aug. 1892, pp. 46-48.

17 Digby County Court House
Queen Street, Digby, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1908-10 by Joseph F. Bent[1]
Architect: Leslie R. Fairn[2]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

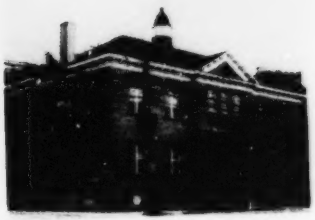
1 Digby, Nova Scotia. County Court House, "Minutes of the Proceedings of the Municipal Council," 4 Aug. 1908, p. 273; cornerstone laid 1910.
2 "Prominent Architect Dies at 96 Years," Mail-Star (Halifax), 14 Aug. 1971, p. 4.

18 Former Guysborough District Court House
283 Church Street, Guysborough, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1842-43 by Elisha Randall[1]
Restored: 1973
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

1 Harriet Cunningham, History of the County of Guysborough, Nova Scotia (Belleville: Mika, 1975), p. 90.

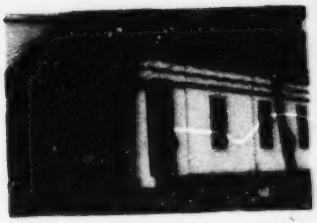
19 Former Halifax County Court House
5250 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1858-60[1] by George Laing[2]
Renovations: West wing added 1908, east wing 1930, extensive interior renovations 1881-1903[3]
Architects: William Thomas & Sons[4]
Material: Sandstone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Library
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Marion F. Moore, "Court House, Halifax, Nova Scotia," Manuscript on file, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1969, p. 3.
2 Margaret Carter, The Halifax Court House and County Gaol, Manuscript Report Series No. 107 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1970), p. 250.
3 Ibid., p. 255.
4 "The Court House, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Comparative study of the work of William Thomas and his sons)," Manuscript on file, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, n.d., p. 1.



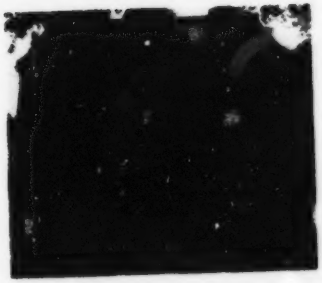
20 Kings County Court House
37 Cornwallis Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1903[1] by Rhodes, Curry & Co. Ltd.[2]
Renovations: Addition to rear 1965-66, general interior renovations 1969
Architect: Leslie R. Fairn[3]
Material: Brick and stone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, McMurdo Studio, Kentville, Nova Scotia)

1 Nova Scotian and Weekly Chronicle (Halifax), 18 Dec. 1903, p. 9.
2 Kentville, Nova Scotia. Municipal Offices, Cash Book for Municipality of Kings County, 9 June 1903, p. 22.
3 H.B. Jefferson, "Leslie R. Fairn, F.R.A.I.C., F.R.S.A., The Distinguished Pioneer Architect of the Atlantic Provinces," Maritime Advocate and Busy East, Vol. 44, No 4 (Dec. 1953), p. 6.



21 Queens County Court House
141 Church Street, Liverpool, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1854[1] by George W. Boehner[2]
Renovations: Interior 1969
Architect: William G. Hammond[3]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house
(L.M.B. Friend)

1 "Queens County," Liverpool Transcript, 11 Oct. 1854, p. 2.
2 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG34-319, J 10, Jan. 1855.
3 Ibid.

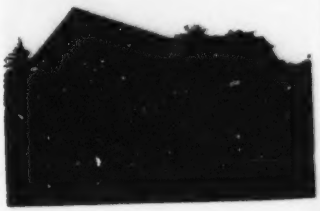


22 Lunenburg County Court House
119 Cumberland Street, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1891-92,[1] builder unknown
Architect: Henry Busch[2]
Material: Brick and sandstone
Use: Court house and town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Knickle's Studio and Gallery, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia)

1 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG35-317, Elective Municipal Government of Lunenburg, Series P, Vol. 1, 22 Jan. 1891, p. 359.
2 Ibid., Vol. 1, 7 Apr. 1891, p. 361.

23 Pictou County Court House
Church Street, Pictou, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1856-ca. 1857,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Gallery enclosed 1887, porch or main entrance replaced post-1879, general interior renovations 1940s[2]
Architect: David Sterling[3]
Material: Wood with stone foundation
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Nova Scotian (Halifax), 1 Sept. 1856, p. 3.
2 W.H. Harris, "The County Jail and Court House," Pictou Advocate, 29 Mar. 1951, p. 4; Pictou Heritage Society, "Pictou Housing Research Project: Pictou County Court House," n.d., Pictou, Nova Scotia.
3 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG34-318, Series P, Vol. 28, Feb. 1853.

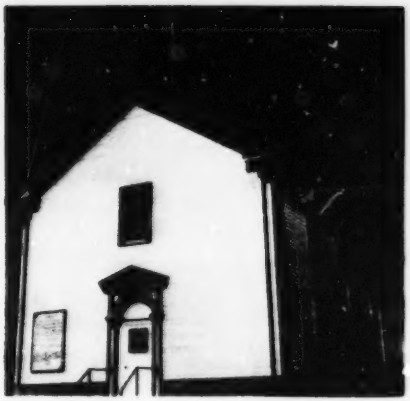


24 St. Mary's District Court House
First Street, Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1858-60,[1] designed and built by Alexander McDonald[2]
Restored: ca. 1870
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 John N. Grant, "Reports on Sherbrooke Village Project Historical Buildings." Manuscript on file, Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, 1970, p. 13; Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG34-322, Series P, Proceedings of the Court of Session, at Sherbrooke, Oct. term, 1860, p. 193.
2 Ibid., 8 Feb. 1858, p. 159.

25 Colchester County Court House
Church Street, Truro, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1903-4 by Messrs. Wilson[1]
Minor Renovations: 1967-68[2]
Architect: J.C. Dumaresq & Son[3]
Material: Brick and sandstone with a granite foundation
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Carsand-Mosher Photographic Ltd., Truro, Nova Scotia)

1 Truro, Nova Scotia. Municipal Court House, Proceedings (1904), 19 Apr. 1904, p. 41.
2 Truro Weekly News, 21 Nov. 1968, p. 1.
3 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, Micro. Misc. "A", Architecture, J.C. Dumaresq & Son, Reel 7.



26 Former Argyle District Court House
Old Main Post Road, Tusket, Nova Scotia
Constructed: 1801-5,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Length doubled 1833 and trebled ca. 1870[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Government office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, photo by Fred A. Hatfield)

1 Nova Scotia. Public Archives, RG34-324, P 1, Oct. 1801, pp. 99 and 146.
2 Ibid., Mar. 1870, p. 114; Interview, Oscar Naus, Tusket, Nova Scotia, Aug. 1977.

27 Former Prince County Court House
Abrams Village, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1876,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Wing added and portico extended post-1939
Architect: Prince Edward Island. Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Agricultural exhibition building
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Prince Edward Island. House of Assembly. "Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the year 1876" in Journal, 1877 (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1877), Appendix D, n.p.
2 Ibid.

28 Alberton County Court House
Alberton, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1877 by John Wiggins & Sons[1]
Architect: Prince Edward Island. Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Alice Green, "Future of Old Court House up in Air," Guardian (Charlottetown), 7 June 1977.
2 Ibid.

29 Province House
165 Richmond Street, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1843-48;[1] Isaac Smith, supervisor; John and Charles MacKenzie, James Watts, William Bain, Francis McDuff, Nathan Wright, Henry Smith, Richard Wright, George Chudleigh, William MacKay, James Millner and Son, and John Boyle, builders[2]
Architect: Isaac Smith[3]
Material: Cut stone
Original Use: Parliament and court house
Present Use: Parliament
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Royal Gazette (Charlottetown), 29 June 1847.
2 Prince Edward Island. Public Archives, Judge Alley-Henry Smith Collection, Isaac Smith Papers, "Slater's Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842, "Excavation Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842; "Plumber's and Brazier's Contract for Colonial Building," 30 Oct. 1842; "Stone Quarrier's Contract for Colonial Building," 2 Nov. 1842; Ira Brown Collection, "Mason's Stonecutters and Bricklayer's Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842; "Plasterer's Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842; "Carpenter's and Joiner's Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842; "Painter's and Glazier's Contract for Colonial Building," 13 Oct. 1842; Colonial Herald (Charlottetown), 22 Oct. 1842.
3 Ibid., "Specifications of sundry works required for the intended public building in Charlottetown, December 31, 1839."

30 Law Courts
171 Richmond Street, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1874-76[1] by Charles Heartz[2]
Renovations: Interior probably 1937, gutted by fire 1976[3]
Architect: Thomas Alley[4]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Patriot (Charlottetown), 8 Oct. 1874 and 22 Jan. 1876.
2 Examiner (Charlottetown), 21 Mar. 1879.
3 Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly, "Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the Fiscal Year ending December 31st 1937," Journal (Charlottetown: King's Printer, 1938), p. 8; Patriot (Charlottetown), 13 Oct. 1976.
4 Patriot (Charlottetown), 28 Mar. 1874.

31 Former King's County Court House
Dundas, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1875,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Vestibule added possibly 1896[2]
Architect: Prince Edward Island. Department of Public Works[3]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Prince Edward Island. House of Assembly, "Accounts of Board of Works for 1875," in Journal (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1876).
2 Prince Edward Island. Public Archives, RG11, Department of Public Works, Tenders, 4 Oct. 1896.
3 See footnote 1.

32 Georgetown Court House
Georgetown, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1887[1] by Lemuel A. Wilmot[2]
Renovations: Jail added 1915[3]
Architect: W.C. Harris[4]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Patriot (Charlottetown), 5 July 1887.
2 Prince Edward Island. House of Assembly, "Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1887," in Journal (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1888), Appendix G, p. 39.
3 Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly, "Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year ending December 31st 1915," Supplement to the Journal (Charlottetown: King's Printer, 1916), p. 8.
4 Interview, Rev. R. Tuck, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

33 Quigley Hall
St. Peter's, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1874-75,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Front vestibule and side door added possibly 1897[2]
Architect: Prince Edward Island. Department of Public Works[3]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Church hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Prince Edward Island. House of Assembly, "Accounts of Board of Works for 1875," in Journal, 1875 (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1875); Prince Edward Island, House of Assembly, "Accounts of the Board of Works for 1875," in Journal, 1875 (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1876).
2 Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly, "Report of Department of Public Works for 1897," in Journal (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1898).
3 See footnote 1.

34 Court House
108 Central Street, Summerside, Prince Edward Island
Constructed: 1874-76[1] by John Tobin[2]
Renovations: 1938, new roof and interior reconstructions 1906[3]
Architect and Contractor: John Corbett[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Examiner (Charlottetown), 12 Oct. 1874; unidentified newspaper clipping, 22 Oct. 1935.
2 Examiner (Charlottetown), 30 Aug. 1875.
3 Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly, "Report of the Public Works Department for 1907," in Journal, 1907 (Charlottetown: King's Printer, 1908), Appendix C, p. 144; Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly, "Annual Report of the Department of Public Works and Highways...for the fiscal year ending December 31st 1938," in Journal, 1938 (Charlottetown: King's Printer, 1939), p. 59.
4 Patriot (Charlottetown), 28 May 1874.

35 Gloucester County Court House
254 Patrick Street, Bathurst, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1900-2,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Left wing added 1972[2]
Architect: R.C. John Dunn[3]
Material: Granite
Original Use: Court house, jail and registry office
Present Use: Court house and registry office.
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Eric Bagnel, Fredericton, New Brunswick)

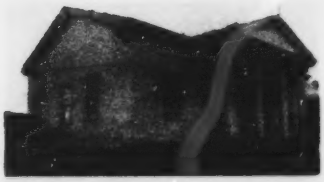
1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RG18, Municipal Affairs, RS 149, Gloucester County Council Minutes, 21 Jan. 1902, p. 3.
2 Interview, Antonine Frenette, Bathurst, New Brunswick, County Clerk's Office, May 1977; and correspondence. Miramichi Advance (Chatham), 10 Apr. 1903, p. 3.
3 "Death of R.C. John Dunn," Miramichi Advance (Chatham), 10 Apr. 1903, p. 3.

36 Sunbury County Court House
Burton, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1833-35;[1] designed by George F.S. Berton, clerk of the peace;[2] built by Benjamin S. Taylor
Renovations: Brick basement added 1947, courtroom renovated 1960-61[3]
Burned down: 1979
Material: Wood and brick
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, David L. Myles, Historical Resources Administration, Fredericton, New Brunswick)

1 New Brunswick, Provincial Archives, RMU, CSU (Sunbury County Council Minutes), 16 Jan. 1833 and 26 Mar. 1833.
2 Ibid., 16 Jan. 1833.
3 Ibid., 29 Jan. 1947, p. 27; 1 Nov. 1960, p. 10; 7 Feb. 1961, p. 31.

37 York County Court House
635 Queen Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1855-57/58 by John Davis[1]
Renovations: Ground floor 1881-83, general renovations ca. 1954[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Brick and stone
Original Use: Court house and market
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 University of New Brunswick Library Archives, York County Council Minutes, 12 Jan. 1859.
2 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RG18, RS160, York County Council Minutes, 1 and 2 July 1883, Appendix p. 459; Map Collection, Neil Stewart: Renovations to York County Court House, 1952-54.



38 Former Queens County Court House
60 Queen Street, Gagetown, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1836-37,[1] builder unknown
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood on stone foundation
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

1 "Contract for Building Queen's County Court House," Royal Gazette (Fredericton), 20 Apr. 1836, p. 2.

39 Kings County Court House
Main Road, Hampton, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1870-72[1] by James Quinton and Charles F. Tilley[2]
Architect: J.T.C. McKean[3]
Material: Brick and sandstone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, C.A. Hale)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RMU, CK 1, 18 Jan. 1872, p. 538.
2 Ibid., 18 Oct. 1870, p. 511.
3 Ibid., 20 July 1870, p. 501.

40 Former Albert County Court House
R.R. # 1, Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1904-5;[1] H. Copp & Co., contractor[2]
Renovations: Restoration post-1966
Architect: W. E. Reid[3]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Alan Bell, Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RMU, Cal (Albert County Council Minutes), 5 Jan. 1905.
2 Ibid., 5 July 1904.
3 Ibid.

41 Northumberland County Court House
599 King George Highway, Newcastle, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1912-13[1] by MacDonald & Ingram[2]
Renovations: Interior 1957[3]
Architect: Leslie R. Fairn[4]
Material: Sandstone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RMU CNO (Northumberland County Council Minutes) 1/19, 18 Jan. 1912, p. 412.
2 Ibid., 2 July 1912, p. 433.
3 Ibid., 2 July 1957, p. 421.
4 Ibid., 2 July 1912, p. 433.

42 Old Northumberland County Court House
285 Campbell Street, Newcastle, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1828-29,[1] designed by grand jury with contractors Gavin Rainnie and Shepherd Frost,[2] built by William Murray[3]
Renovations: Converted into apartments 1914 and restored 1976
Material: White pine
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Provincial Archives of New Brunswick)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RG18 1/2, Aug. 1829, pp. 174-76.
2 Ibid., 1 Sept. 1829, p. 177.
3 Louise Manny, "William Murray Miramichi Builder," Maritime Advocate and Busy East, Vol. 56, No. 3 (Oct. 1965), p. 14.

43 Victoria County Court House
574 Main Street, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1877-78;[1] Robert Wallace, contractor[2]
Renovations: 1960[3]
Architect: J.G. Fletcher[4]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house and jail
(Photo by Ellsworth DeMerchant)

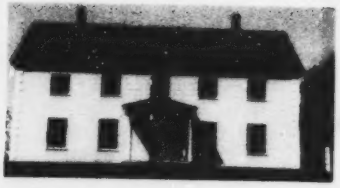
1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RG18, RS158, 1/1, 13 Oct. 1878.
2 Ibid., 8 Oct. 1877.
3 Interview, Mr. Paul Inman, Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 1977.
4 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RG18, RS158, 1/1, 3 July 1877.

44 Charlotte County Court House
123A Frederick Street, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1839-40;[1] designed by building committee appointed by grand jury, with builder Thomas Berry[2]
Renovations: Interior 1949[3]
Material: Wood
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, RMU, CCH, 1/3, p. 154.
2 Ibid., RMU, CCH, 1/3, 13 Apr. 1839, p. 106; REX/pa, 1/3, "Petition of Thomas Berry," 1842.
3 Ibid., RMU, CCH, 1/8a, 19 Jan. 1949, p. 532.

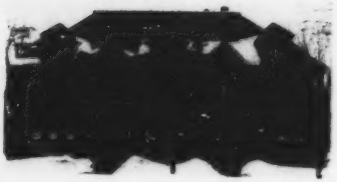
43 St. John County Court House
"20" Sydney Street, Saint John, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1826-29;[1] John Cunningham, contractor[2]
Renovations: Interior and front entrance 1924-25[3]
Architect: John Cunningham[4]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and exposition centre
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives, REX/pa, "Petition of the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of Saint John," 21 Feb. 1826; "Our St. John Court House; its History and its Traditions," Globe (Saint John), 15 Jan. 1876, p. 3.
2 Christina Southam and Anne Hale, "Saint John County Court House, 20 Sydney Street, Saint John, N.B. - Historical Report." Manuscript on file, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1974, p. 1; New Brunswick. Museum. Archives, Miscellaneous documents relating to the court house: estimates, 1829.
3 New Brunswick. Museum. Archives, St. John County Council Minutes, 8 Aug. 1924, pp. 315-16.
4 See footnote 2.



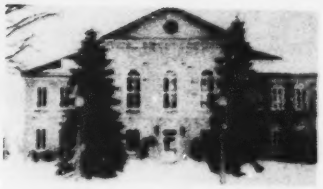
46 Old Carleton County Court House
Court Street, Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1833-34,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Additions 1865-66[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Carleton County Historical Society)

1 Carleton County Historical Society. Carleton County General Sessions Records, 6 June and 29 Mar. 1834.
2 "The Court House," Carleton Sentinel (Woodstock), 16 Sept. 1866, p. 3.



47 Carleton County Court House
687-689 Main Street, Woodstock, New Brunswick
Constructed: 1884 (registry office), 1909-10 (court house);[1] R.A. Corbett built court house portion[2]
Architect: (court house portion): F. Neil Brodie[3]
Material: Brick and sandstone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Photo by David Wyles)

1 "County Council," Carleton Sentinel (Woodstock), 5 July 1883, p. 2 and 14 Jan. 1910, p. 8.
2 Ibid., 4 June 1909, p. 4.
3 Ibid., 12 Mar. 1909, p. 6.

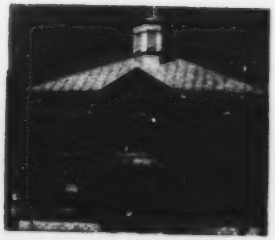


48 Town Hall
120 Main Street, Aylmer, Quebec
Constructed: 1870-71 by Thomas C. Pidgeon and Daniel Cassidy[1]
Architect: Pierre Gauvreau, chief architect, provincial Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Aylmer, Palais de justice, 10 Nov. 1869, No. 5468.
2 Ibid.

51 Court House
520 Principale Street, Cowansville, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-62[1] by Sinclair and Skelsey, and G.H. Sweet[2]
Renovations: Additions 1874-75, 1894, 1931-32, 1955; strong-room 1906; jail 1966[3]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 282, Subject 700, 2 Oct. 1860, No. 49521; Geneviève G. Bastien et al., Histoire et archéologie, 1 (1975), Ottawa.
3 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Sweetsburg, Palais de justice, 31 Oct. 1874, No. 28364; 8 Feb. 1894, No. 195; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec 1906 (Quebec: King's Printer, 1906), p. 7; Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics de la province de Québec 1955 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1955), p. 51; Rapport annuel/Annual Report (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1964), p. 52.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.

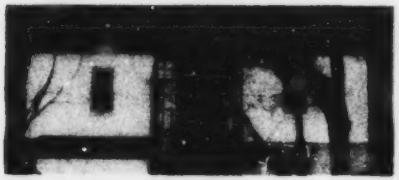


50 Registry Office
173 Principale Street, Coteau-Landing, Quebec
Constructed: 1858 by Joachim Lalonde;[1] designed by building committee[2]
Renovations: Strong-room 1914[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Montréal. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe G.H. Dumesnil, 9 Dec. 1858, No. 1772.
2 La Corporation du village de Coteau-Landing, Registre des délibérations de la corporation du village de Coteau-Landing, Vol. 1, 4 Oct. 1858.
3 Ibid., 11 May 1894.

49 Town Hall
1-3 Principale Street, Bedford, Quebec
Constructed: 1874 by Henry N. Bockus and designed by Meigs and Eaton, Consultants[1]
Renovations: Addition 1919, one strong-room 1930 and a second 1960[2]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Town hall and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Municipality of the County of Missisquoi, Register A, pp. 276, 305.
2 Ibid., Register B, pp. 435, 573-77.

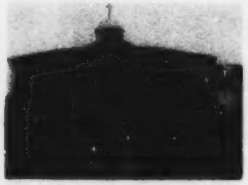


52 Registry Office
Gosford Road, Ham-Sud, Quebec
Constructed: 1871, designed and built by J.E. Plamondon[1]
Renovations: Strong-room 1895[2]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 La Corporation municipale du comté de Wolfe, Plans du palais de justice à Ham-Sud, 8 April 1870.
2 La Corporation municipale du comté de Wolfe, Livre du record du Conseil du compté de Wolfe, Vol. 2, 12 June 1895.

53 County Building
23 King Street, Huntingdon, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-60 by Thomas Best[1]
Architect: John James Browne[2]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: County building
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Municipal Council of the County of Huntingdon, Register of the Municipal Council of the County of Huntingdon, Vol. 1, pp. 52 and 80.
2 Ibid., p. 43.



54 Ecole Notre-Dame de Lourdes
206-6th Avenue, Iberville, Quebec
Constructed: 1860-61 by John Pearson[1]
Renovations: Another storey 1928 and an addition 1957[2]
Architect: Frederick Lawford and James Nelson[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: School
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 St-Jean. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe Clément Vincelette, 10 Oct. 1860, No. 1326.
2 Yvonne A. Labelle, Monographie d'Iberville (Iberville: Imprimerie Champagnat, 1968), p. 176.
3 St-Jean. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe Clément Vincelette, 2 Oct. 1860, No. 1818 and 10 Oct. 1860, No. 1326.

55 Town Hall and Registry Office
1760 Arthabaska Road, Inverness, Quebec
Constructed: 1890[1] by William McVetty[2]
Renovations: Enlarged 1890[3]
Architect: T. and J.A. McKenzie[4]
Material: Stone and brick
Original Use: Court house, town hall and registry office
Present Use: Town hall and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Conseil du comté de Mégantic. Livre des délibérations du Conseil du comté de Mégantic, Vol. 1, pp. 244-47.
2 Municipal Council of the Municipality of the Township of Inverness, Register of Proceedings of the Municipal council of the Municipality of the Township of Inverness, Vol. 1, p. 12.
3 Inverness. Inverness Council Minute Book, 1889-1899, p. 30.
4 Ibid., p. 1.

56 Court House
450 St-Louis Street, Joliette, Quebec
Constructed: 1860-62[1] by Toussaint Vézina[2]
Renovations: Additions 1916-17, 1929-30, 1960-61[3]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 284, Subject 702, 14 Dec. 1860, No. 30811.
3 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Joliette, Court House, 10 Aug. 1916, No. 2068; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec,1930-31 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1931), p. 22; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport annuel 1960/61 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1961), p. 27.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.

57 Old Court House
Morel Street, Kamouraska, Quebec
Constructed: 1888-89[1] by François Soucy[2]
Architects: Québec, Ministère des Travaux publics, Jean-Baptiste Derome and Paul Cousins[3]
Material: Red brick and freestone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Municipal offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

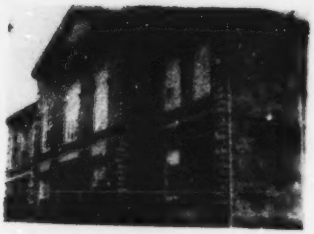
1 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Kamouraska, Palais de justice, 4 Oct. 1887, No. 3240 and 5 Dec. 1888, No. 1355.
2 Ibid., 8 Oct. 1887, No. 3240.
3 Ibid., 22 Sept. 1887, No. 3081 and 5 Dec. 1888, No. 1355.

58 Brome County Building
St-Paul Road, Brome Lake, Quebec
Constructed: 1859 by Timothy E. Chamberlin[1]
Renovations: Strong-room 1885[2]
Architects: James Ball; plans altered by United Canada, Department of Public Works, F.P. Rubidge, chief architect[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house, registry and county office
Present Use: Registry office and county building
(Brome County Historical Society)

1 Municipal Corporation of the County of Brome, Minute Book, Vol. 1, 14 Sept. 1859.
2 Ibid., 9 Dec. 1885.
3 Ibid., p. 16; Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 37322.

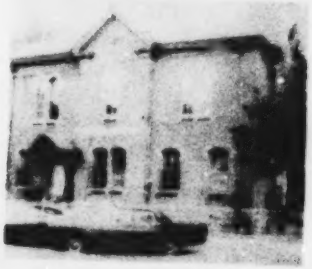
61 Old Public Hall at L'Isle-Verte
199 St-Jean-Baptiste Street, L'Isle-Verte, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-60,[1] designed and built by Benjamin Dionne[2]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and offices
Present Use: Abandoned
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Corporation de la paroisse de L'Isle-Verte. Registre de la corporation de la paroisse de L'Isle-Verte, Vol. 1, p. 108.
2 Guy Giguère, "Dossier d'inventaire architectural du palais de justice de L'Isle-Verte (1859-60), 199 rue St-Jean-Baptiste, L'Isle-Verte, comté de Rivière-du-Loup," Manuscript on file, Ministère des Affaires culturelles, Quebec, n.d., p. 21.



59 La Malbaie Court House
La Vallée Road, La Malbaie, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-63 by Sinclair and Skelsey, and Simon Xavier Cimon[1]
Renovations: Additions 1930-31, 1960-61[2]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[3]
Material: Freestone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canada. Public Archives (hereafter PAC), RG11, Vol. 282, Subject 700, 2 Oct. 1860, No. 49521 and Vol. 285, Subject 704, No. 48572.
2 Québec. Travaux publics; Service du Registraire, plan nº 03-0177-PL-4; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport annuel/Annual Report, 1959-60 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1960), p. 32.
3 PAC, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.



62 Registry Office
1601 Edmond Guillet Street, Marieville, Quebec
Constructed: 1885-86[1] by Pierre Didier[2]
Renovations: Addition 1920[3]
Architect: Poitras and Roy[4]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Bureau d'enregistrement de Marieville, comté de Rouville, dossier nº 9510-02.
2 Marieville. Office of Maître Jacques Marcoux, greffe Grégoire Bombardier, 6 Oct. 1885, No. 3663.
3 La corporation municipale du comté de Rouville. Procédés, votes et délibérations du conseil municipal du comté de Rouville, Vol. 2, fol. 793.
4 Ibid., Vol. 1, fol. 498.

60 Registry Office
253-259-265 St-Etienne Street, L'Assomption, Quebec
Constructed: 1811-22 by Laurent Dorval Jr. and Jacques Dufaux[1]
Renovations: Interior alterations 1842[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Stone
Original Use: Private home
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Christian Roy, Histoire de L'Assomption (L'Assomption: La Commission des Fêtes du 250e, 1967), p. 466; Joliette, Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe B. Joliette, 9 May 1822.
2 Ibid., p. 220.

63 Court House
634 La Madone Street, Mont-Laurier, Quebec
Constructed: 1912-13 by Joseph Gosselin[1]
Architect: Elzéar Charest, chief architect, provincial Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et de l'Approvisionnement, plan nº 07-0703-9)

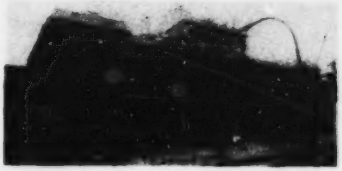
1 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Mont-Laurier, Palais de justice, 9 Jan. 1912, No. 119.
2 Ibid., 20 Sept. 1911, No. 1899.

64 Court House
25 Le Palais de Justice Street, Montmagny, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-62[1] by Sinclair and Skelsey, and Charles Peters[2]
Renovations: Additions 1919, 1956-57[3]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Freestone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 282, Subject 700, 2 Oct. 1860, No. 49521; Geneviève G. Bastien, Doris D. Dubé and Christina Southam, "Inventaire des marchés de construction des archives civiles de Québec, 1800-1870," Histoire et archéologie, 1 (1975), Ottawa.
3 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Montmagny, Palais de justice, 25 April 1919, No. 1449 and 13 May 1919, No. 1639; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics de la province de Québec, 1957 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1957), p. 51.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.

67 Registry Office
395 Mgr. Courchesne Street, Nicolet, Quebec
Constructed: 1910 by La Compagnie L.J. Caron[1]
Renovations: Jail 1913-14[2]
Architect: L.J. Caron[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et de L'Approvisionnement, plan nº 04-0390-6)

1 Nicolet. Town hall, Livre des minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 506 and 528.
2 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Service du Registraire, plan nº 04-0390.
3 Nicolet. Town hall, Livre des minutes, Vol. 4, p. 506.



65 Old Court House
135 Notre-Dame Street East, Montreal, Quebec
Constructed: 1851-57[1] by A. Laberge, P. Labelle and M. Bro dit Pominville[2]
Renovations: One storey 1890-94, additions 1903-1905, 1922-26[3]
Architect: Ostell and Perrault[4]
Material: Freestone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Municipal offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

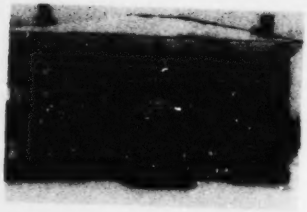
1 Geneviève G. Bastien et. al., Histoire et archéologie, 1 (1975), Ottawa; Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Montréal. Archives nationales du Québec, greffe Joseph Belle, 28 Nov. 1850, No. 11,899.
3 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Montréal, Palais de justice, 1 Sept. 1890, No. 570 and 820; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail, 1927-28 (Quebec: King's Printer, 1928), p. 40.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 138, No. 976.

66 Registry Office
361 St-Jacques Street, Napierville, Quebec
Constructed: 1834 by John McNeil[1]
Architect: Thompson and Parry[2]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 St-Jean. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe Pierre Gamelin, 14 July 1834.
2 Montréal. Archives nationales du Québec, greffe H. Griffin, 1 Aug. 1834, No. 12,623.

68 Court House
12 St-Louis Street, Quebec, Quebec
Constructed: 1883-89[1] by John Patrick Whelan[2]
Renovations: Addition 1923-25[3]
Architect: Jean-Baptiste Derome and Eugène Taché, provincial Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Freestone
Use: Court house
(Public Archives Canada, PA 23954)

1 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport général du Commissaire des Travaux publics de la province de Québec 1887/1888 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1889), p. 5.
2 Québec. Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics, Rapport du Commissaire de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics de la province de Québec pour l'année finissant le 30 juin 1879 (Quebec: Charles François Langlois, 1879), p. 223.
3 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec 1905/1906 (Quebec: King's Printer, 1906), p. 3.
4 See footnote 2, p. 119.



69 Registry Office
295 Principale Street South, Richmond, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-60;[1] designed and built by J.S. Brown[2]
Renovations: Addition 1876[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: County building
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

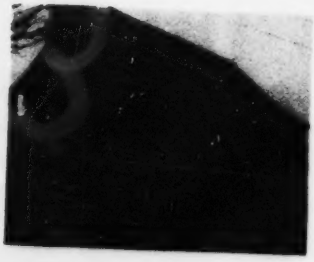
1 Sherbrooke. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe George Hope Napier, 28 Sept. 1859, No. 1208.
2 Greenlay. Municipal Council of the County of Richmond, Register, p. 55.
3 Ibid., p. 258.

70 Court House
27 La Cour Street, Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec
Constructed: 1882-83[1] by François Lachance[2]
Renovations: Additions 1901, 1932, 1957 and strong-room 1909[3]
Architect: Pierre Gauvreau, chief architect, provincial Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Rivière-du-Loup, Palais de justice, 12 July 1881, No. 1743.
2 Ibid., 25 Oct. 1881, No. 3074.
3 Ibid., 9 Sept. 1909, No. 1890; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics de la province de Québec, 1932 (Québec: King's Printer, 1932), p. 22-23; Idem, 1956/57 (Québec: Queen's Printer, 1957), p. 57.
4 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Rivière-du-Loup, Palais de justice, 25 Oct. 1881, No. 3074.

71 Court House
750 St-Joseph Blvd, Roberval, Quebec
Constructed: 1909[1] by Albert Naud and P.A. Potvin[2]
Renovations: Jail 1911, addition 1953, interior 1953-56[2]
Architect: Joseph P. Ouellet[3]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house, registry office and town hall
Present Use: Court house and registry office
(Saguenay Historical Society)

1 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec pour l'année 1911/1912 (Québec: Queen's Printer, 1912), p. 7.
2 Rossel Vien, Histoire de Roberval, coeur du Lac Saint-Jean (N.p.: Saguenay Historical Society, 1955), p. 164.
3 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Roberval, Palais de justice, 1 May 1912, No. 991; Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics de la province de Québec, 1936 (Québec: Queen's Printer, 1936), p. 55.
4 Rossel Vien, op. cit., p. 164.



72 Registry Office
115 Langevin Street, Ste-Hénédine, Quebec
Constructed: 1862[1] by Félix Blais[2]
Renovations: One storey added 1881, strong-room 1931[3]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

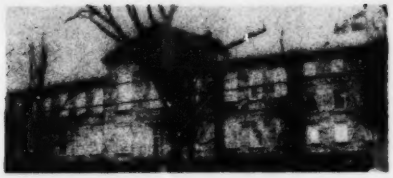
1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 281, No. 61190.
2 St-Joseph de Beauce. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe J.-Octave Morin, 22 Feb. 1862, No. 376.
3 Ibid., greffe J.-B. Edouard Fortin, 9 July 1881, No. 1461; Corporation municipale du comté de Dorchester. Registre des délibérations du comté de Dorchester, Vol. 6, p. 22.

73 St-Jean Court House
109 St-Charles Street, St-Jean, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-61[1] by Henry Benson Sinclair and Joseph Skelsey[2]
Renovations: Wing 1883, addition 1967-68[3]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief architect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Inventaire des Biens culturels, No. 15705-A-2)

1 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 282, Subject 700, 16 Nov. 1860, No. 50831.
3 Québec. Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics, Rapport général du Commissaire de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics de la province de Québec pour l'année financière expirée le 30 juin 1883 (Québec: Charles François Langlois, 1884), p. 226. Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport annuel/Annual Report, 1967/68 (Québec: Queen's Printer, 1968), p. 16.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.

74 Town Hall
280 Labelle Street, St-Jérôme, Quebec
Constructed: 1879 by Alfred Antoine Laviolette[1]
Architect: Godfroi Laviolette[2]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 St-Jérôme. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe J.-B. Lefebvre de Villemure, 6 Dec. 1873, No. 3425.
2 Ibid.



73 Court House
297 du Palais Avenue, St-Joseph-de-Beauce, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-62[1] by Sinclair and Skelsey, and Augustin Trépanier[2]
Renovations: Addition 1924-25[3]
Architect: F.P. Rubidge, chief archiect, United Canada, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1868).
2 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 282, Subject 700, 20 Oct. 1860, No. 49521; Geneviève G. Bastien, Doris D. Dubé and Christina Southam, "Inventaire des marchés de construction des archives civiles de Québec, 1800-1870," Histoire et archéologie, 1 (1973), Ottawa, No. 3790.
3 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec, 1924 (Quebec: King's Printer, 1924), p. 3.
4 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.

76 Registry Office
26 Albert Street, Ste-Julienne, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-60 by Benjamin Lemire, dit Marsolais[1]
Renovations: Addition 1948
Architect: Probably Edouard Beaupré
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

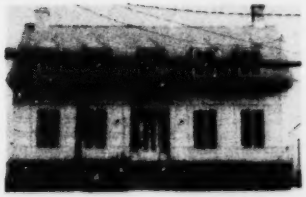
1 Joliette. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe A.H. de Caussin, 7 June 1859, No. 676.

77 St-Liboire Registry Office
55 Lemonde Street, St-Liboire, Quebec
Constructed: 1884 by Edouard Cloutier[1]
Renovations: Addition 1911, strong-room 1929[2]
Architect: Poitras and Roy[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Conseil municipal du comté de Bagot. Registre des délibérations et résolutions du Conseil municipal du comté de Bagot, Vol. 2, p. 490.
2 Ibid., 17 May 1911 and 11 July 1929.
3 Ibid., Vol. 2, p. 490.

78 Registry Office
164 St-Joseph Street, Ste-Martine, Quebec
Constructed: 1887-88 by Jean-Baptiste Taillefer[1]
Renovations: Strong-room 1962[2]
Architect: Maurice Perrault and Albert Mesnard[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Corporation municipale du comté de Châteauguay. Registre des délibérations du comté de Châteauguay, Vol. 2, p. 178.
2 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Bureau d'enregistrement, Ste-Martine, comté de Châteauguay, file no. 9523-02.
3 Corporation municipale du comté de Châteauguay. Registre des délibérations du comté de Châteauguay, Vol. 2, p. 139.



79 Old Parish Hall
8 St-Charles Street, St-Michel-de-Bellechasse, Quebec
Constructed: 1859-60[1] by Majorique Mercier and designed by county council[2]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and offices
Present Use: Meeting hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 281, No. 48385.
2 Montmagny. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe J.F. Talbot, 20 Sept. 1859, No. 1052.

80 Registry Office
23 Chanoine Audet Street, St-Raphaël, Quebec
Constructed: 1899-1900 by Joseph Lévesque[1]
Renovations: Strong-room 1971[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Giroux)

1 Album-Souvenir Centenaire de Saint-Raphaël, 1852-1952 (Lévis: Imprimerie "Le Quotidien Ltée," 1952), p. 73.
2 La Corporation du comté de Bellechasse. Livre des délibérations du comté de Bellechasse, 1964-74, p. 78.

81 Court House
174 du Palais Avenue, Sherbrooke, Quebec
Constructed: 1904-1906,[1] builder unknown
Architect: Elzéar Charest, chief architect, provincial Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Québec. Ministère de la Colonisation et des Travaux publics, Rapport général du ministre de la Colonisation et des Travaux publics de la province de Québec, 1903/04 (Quebec: King's Printer, 1904), p. 167.
2 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Sherbrooke, Palais de justice, 25 Oct. 1899, No. 1423.

82 Arsenal
315 William Street, Sherbrooke, Quebec
Constructed: 1839-41,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Right wing 1871, left wing 1876[2]
Architect: William Footner[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Arsenal
(Eastern Townships Historical Society)

1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 93, No. 67.
2 Québec. Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics, Rapport général du commissaire de l'Agriculture et des Travaux publics de la province de Québec pour les 12 mois expirés le 30 juin 1871 (Montreal: "La Minerve," 1872), p. 373; ibid., 1876, p. 146.
3 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Vol. 112, p. 8.

83 Court House
63A Champlain Street, Valleyfield, Quebec
Constructed: 1901-1903[1] by Thomas Préfontaine Jr. and Théodore Bélanger[2]
Renovations: Addition 1972-73[3]
Architect: Elzéar Charest, chief architect, provincial Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Québec. Ministère de la Colonisation et des Travaux publics, Rapport général du ministre de la Colonisation et des Travaux publics de la province de Québec, 1903 (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1903), p. 162.
2 Québec. Archives nationales du Québec, Travaux publics, Valleyfield, Palais de justice, 5 Oct. 1901, No. 1927.
3 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics, Rapport annuel/Annual Report, 1972-73 (Quebec: Editeur officiel du Québec, 1973), p. 20.
4 See footnote 2.

84 Registry Office
420 Roche Blvd., Vaudreuil, Quebec
Constructed: 1859[1] by Narcisse Prévost[2]
Renovations: Strong-room 1932[3]
Architect: Adolphe Moffat[4]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present Use: Registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, André Ciroux)

1 Montréal. Archives de la Cour Supérieure, greffe Joseph-Octave Bastien, 21 Jan. 1860, No. 3817.
2 Ibid., 9 March 1859, No. 3714.
3 Corporation du Comté de Vaudreuil. Livre des entrées et délibérations de la corporation du comté de Vaudreuil, Vol. 3, pp. 247-51.
4 Ibid., p. 77.

85 Simcoe County Court House
130 Wolsey Street, Barrie, Ontario
Constructed: 1842[1] by Charles Thompson[2]
Renovations: Addition 1877, alterations 1944[3]
Architect: Horace Keating[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Minutes of the Simcoe District Municipal Council 1843-47 (Barrie: Northern Advance, 1893), meetings for 1843.
2 Ibid., meeting of May 1843, p. 21.
3 "Building Committee Report," Proceedings of the Municipal Court, June 1877, pp. 28 and 37.
4 Minutes of the Simcoe District Municipal Council 1843-47 (Barrie: Northern Advance, 1893), meetings Feb. 1843, p. 13.

86 Muskoka District Court House
3 Dominion Street, Bracebridge, Ontario
Constructed: 1899-1900[1] by James Eaton[2]
Renovations: 1948-51, addition 1964[3]
Architect: Government of Ontario, Department of Public Works; F.R. Heakes, chief architect[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

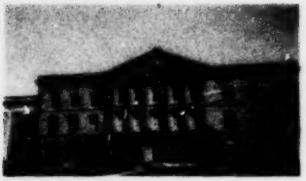
1 Report of the Commissioner of Public Works, 1900 (Toronto: L.K. Cameron, 1901), p. 10.
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, Records of the Department of Public Works fo. Ontario, RE15, Series P-1, contract no. 808, 1899.
3 Department of Public Works Annual Report 1947 (Toronto: Queen's Printer, 1947), p. 25.
4 See footnote 2.

87 Peel County Court House
Main Street at Wellington, Brampton, Ontario
Construcuud: 1863-66[1] by John Kestevan[2]
Architect: William Kauffmann[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum and art gallery
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Thomas Symons, A History of Peel County 1867-1967 (Brampton: Corporation of the County of Peel, 1967), pp. 124-25.
2 Minutes, Reports, By-Laws etc. of the Provisional Council of the County of Peel (Brampton: Weekly Review Office, 1867), minutes of the meeting of 15 May 1865.
3 Ibid., minutes of meeting 31 July 1865.

88 Brant County Court House
80 Wellington Street, Brantford, Ontario
Constructed: 1852-53 by John Turner and William Sinon[1]
Renovations: 1906, addition 1886[2]
Architect: John Turner[3]
Material: Stone and brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Brant County Minutes (Brantford: Racey and Mair, 1852-53), minutes of meetings of the County Council for 1852-53 and 8 May 1852.
2 Brant County Minutes (Brantford: Daily Courier, 1887), meeting of 2 Nov. 1887.
3 Brant County Minutes (Brantford: Racey and Mair, 1852-53), minutes of meeting 1 May 1852.



89 Leeds and Grenville County Court House
Court House Square, Brockville, Ontario
Constructed: 1841-45 by Benjamin Chaffey[1]
Renovations: 1889, addition 1888[2]
Architect: John Howard[3]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, D. Johnson)

1 W.H. Cole, "The Local History of the Town of Brockville," Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records, Vol. 12 (1914), pp. 39-40.
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Section C, Minute Books of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, minutes of the meetings of June 1888 and 26-30 Nov. 1889.
3 See footnote 1.

90 Kent County Court House
81 Stanley Avenue, Chatham, Ontario
Constructed: 1848-50[1] by George Young and Morrison and Brown[2]
Renovations: 1924, 1970s
Architect: William Thomas[3]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 County of Kent, Minutes of the County Council, meetings of 1848-50.
2 Ibid., meetings of 28 Oct. 1848 and 17 Feb. 1849.
3 Ibid., meeting of 28 Oct. 1847.

91 Victoria Hall
55 King Street, Cobourg, Ontario
Constructed: 1856-60[1] by William and David Burnett[2]
Renovations: 1880, 1899, 1970s
Architect: Kivas Tully[3]
Material: Cleveland sandstone
Use: Court house and town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Peter John Stokes, "The Preservation of Victoria Hall," in Victorian Cobourg, J. Petryshyn, ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1976), pp. 28-35.
2 Edwin Guillet, Cobourg 1793-1948 (Oshawa: Goodhue, 1948), p. 91.
3 Peter John Stokes, loc. cit.

92 Eastern District Court House
20 Pitt Street/7 Water Street, Cornwall, Ontario
Constructed: 1830-33[1] by Archibald Fraser[2]
Renovations: Additions 1885, 1958[3]
Architect: Archibald Fraser[4]
Material: Limestone
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canada. Public Archives, MG9, D8-8, Minutes of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the Eastern District, 1828-33.
2 "Accounts of the Treasurer of the Eastern District 1831-32," reprinted in Journal of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, 1834-35, Appendix No. 67 (York: Robert Stanton, 1835), pp. 2-3.
3 United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Minutes of the Municipal Council - Building Report, meeting of 27 Jan. 1886.
4 See footnote 2.

93 Rainy River District Court House
333 Church Street, Fort Frances, Ontario
Constructed: 1913-14[1] by Allen J. Seaman and E.G. Penniman[2]
Renovations: 1951, minor structural changes 1929, 1947
Architect: Province of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Frank R. Heakes, chief architect[3]
Material: Brick and stone
Use: Court house
(Provincial Archives of Manitoba)

1 Report of the Minister of Public Works for Ontario for 1914 (Toronto: King's Printer, 1915).
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG15, Box 10, Records of the Department of Public Works, Contract No. 1506.
3 Ibid.

94 Manitoulin District Court House
Phipps Street, Gore Bay, Ontario
Constructed: 1889[1] by George Ball[2]
Renovations: Additions 1901, 1924[3]
Architect: Province of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Kivas Tully, chief architect[4]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Report of the Minister of Public Works for the Province of Ontario for 1889 (Toronto: Queen's Printer, 1890).
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG15, Series P-1, Records of the Department of Public Works, Contract No. 472.
3 Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Province of Ontario for 1901 (Toronto: L.K. Cameron, 1902), pp. 14, 20; Report of the Minister of Public Works for Ontario for 1926 (Toronto: Clarkson W. James, 1925), p. 11.
4 Government of Ontario, Ministry of Governmental Services. Plan for the Court House and Registry Office, Gore Bay, plans no. 2-119-1 to 2-119-6.

95 Wellington District Court House
74 Woolwich Street, Guelph, Ontario
Constructed: 1841-43 by William Allan[1]
Renovations: Additions 1873, 1953, 1955, 1963[2]
Architect: Thomas Young[3]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 James Innes, A History of Guelph and Townships of Wellington County (Guelph: Guelph Mercury, 1866), n.p.
2 Proceedings of the County Council of the County of Wellington (Guelph: Herald Printing, 1873), Jan. 1873, p. 7; "Warden's Address," County Council of Wellington Journal of Proceedings (Elora: The Elora Express, 1952), p. 23.
3 James Innes, op. cit.

96 Kenora District Court House
216 Water Street, Kenora, Ontario
Constructed: 1910-11 by M.A. Pigott and Sons[1]
Renovations: Addition 1969
Architect: Province of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Frank R. Heakes, chief architect[2]
Material: Brick and granite
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

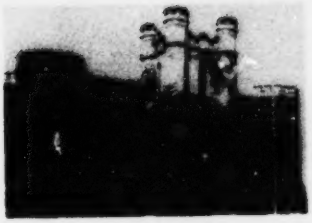
1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG15, Series E-1, Records of the Department of Public Works, Schedule of Total Prices for the Various Works: Kenora Court House, Chief Architect's Files, Box 14, Pt. 2.
2 Report of the Minister of the Department of Public Works for 1909 (Toronto: King's Printer, 1910), p. 26.

97 Frontenac County Court House
1 Court Street, Kingston, Ontario
Constructed: 1855-58 by Scobell and Tosell[1]
Renovations: 1874, 1931, 1965
Architect: Edward Horsey[2]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Committee of Architectural Review, Buildings of Architectural and Historical Significance (Kingston: City of Kingston, 1971), Vol. 1, pp. 28-32.
2 Ibid.

98 Victoria County Court House
26 Francis Street, Lindsay, Ontario
Constructed: 1862-63[1] by John Kestevan[2]
Renovations: Renovated and bell tower removed 1971
Architects: Frederick William Cumberland and William George Storm[3]
Materials: White brick and stone
Use: Court house and offices
(Archives of Ontario)

1 Journal of the Proceedings and By-Laws of the Provincial Council of the County of Victoria (Lindsay: Herald, 1863), meetings of 1861-63.
2 Ibid., meeting of 7 Mar. 1862.
3 Ibid., meeting of 15 Oct. 1861, p. 18.



99 Middlesex County Court House
399 Ridout Street, London, Ontario
Constructed: 1827-31 by John Ewart[1]
Renovations: Additions 1878, 1911[2]
Architect: John Ewart[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house, jail and offices
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Daniel J. Brock, "A Brief Sketch of the Early History of the London's Court House and Jail," London Public Library and Art Museum Occasional Papers, No. 22 (1976), p. 35.
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.

100 Ottawa District Court House
1023 Queen Street, L'Orignal, Ontario
Constructed: 1824[1] by Donald MacDonald and Walter Beckwith[2]
Renovations: Additions 1849, 1861, 1962-63[3]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Limestone and brownstone
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

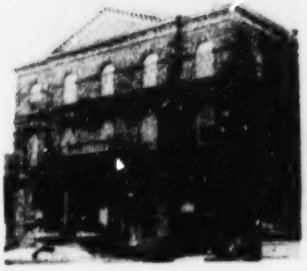
1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG23, Ser. 7, Court Records, General Quarter Sessions of the Ottawa District, meetings of 1824.
2 Ibid., meeting of 13 Jan. 1824.
3 Lucien Brault, Histoire des Comtés Unis de Prescott et de Russell (L'Orignal: Conseil des Comtés Unis, 1965), p. 80.

101 Halton County Court House
43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario
Constructed: 1854-55[1] by Michael Kenney[2]
Renovations: Addition 1877
Architects: Clark and Murray[3]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, K. Crossman)

1 Minutes of the Municipal Council of the County of Halton (Milton: Journal, 1855)
2 Ibid., minutes of the meeting of 11 Mar. 1854.
3 Ibid., minutes of the meeting of 7 Feb. 1854.

102 Lennox and Addington County Court House
97 Thomas Street East, Napanee, Ontario
Constructed: 1864-65[1] by John Forin[2]
Renovations: Addition 1969
Architect: John Power[3]
Materials: Limestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 County of Lennox and Addington, Minutes of the County Council, meetings of 1864-66.
2 Ibid., meeting of 2 Mar. 1864.
3 Ibid., meeting of 13 Oct. 1864.



103 Niagara District Court House and Town Hall
26 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Constructed: 1846-47[1] by Garvie and Co.[2]
Architect: William Thomas[3]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house, town hall and market
Present Use: Town hall and theatre
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Sect. A, Niagara Town Council Records, meetings of the Board of Police for 1846-47.
2 Ibid., meeting of 29 July 1846.
3 Ibid., meeting of 9 July 1846.

104 Nipissing District Court House
390 Plouffe Street, North Bay, Ontario
Constructed: 1888[1] by John Forin[2]
Renovations: Addition 1896,[3] renovations 1909 and 1938-39
Architect: Government of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Kivas Tully, chief architect[4]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house, jail and offices
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Report of the Minister of Public Works for Ontario for 1888 (Toronto: Warwick and Sons, 1889), p. 11.
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG15, Ser. P-1, Records of the Department of Public Works, Contract No. 446, 1888.
3 "Report of the Architect," Public Works Reports 1896 (Toronto: Warwick Bro's & Rutter, 1897), p. 12; "Report of the Architect," Public Works Reports 1909 (Toronto: King's Printer, 1910), p. 25.
4 See footnote 1.

103 Dufferin County Court House
51 Zina Street, Orangeville, Ontario
Constructed: 1880-81[1] by Dobbie and Grierson[2]
Renovations: Addition 1973
Architect: C.J. Soule[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Adelaide Leitch, Into the High Country (Orangeville: County of Dufferin, 1975).
2 "Reports: Warden's Address," in Minutes of the County of Dufferin (Orangeville: F.H. Newton, 1881), meeting of 23 Mar. 1880, p. 58.
3 Ibid., "Report of the Building Committee," meeting of 12 Nov. 1879, p. 46.

106 Carleton County Court House
2 Daly Street, Ottawa, Ontario
Constructed: 1870-71[1] by John W. Webster[2]
Renovations: 1951-52, addition 1962-63
Architect: Robert Surtees[3]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Sect. C, Minutes of the Municipal Council of the County of Carleton, meetings of 1870-73.
2 Ibid., meeting of 24 June 1870.
3 Ottawa Citizen (Ottawa), 18 March 1870.

107 Grey County Court House
1235 Third Avenue East, Owen Sound, Ontario
Constructed: 1852-53[1] by Dowling and Dougal[2]
Renovations: Addition 1885[3]
Architect: Mr. Smith[4]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house and offices
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 E.L. Marsh, A History of the County of Grey (Owen Sound: Fleming Publishing, 1931), pp. 217-23.
2 Ibid., p. 223.
3 Minutes of the County Council of Grey (Owen Sound: Rutherford Printers, 1886), June 1886, p. 63.
4 E.L. Marsh, op. cit., p. 221.

108 Parry Sound District Court House
101 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario
Constructed: 1871[1] by John McClelland[2]
Renovations: Major addition 1889, addition 1921, renovations 1969[3]
Architect: Government of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Kivas Tully, chief architect[4]
Material: Frame, brick veneer
Original Use: Court house, jail and registry office
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works for 1871 (Toronto: Hunter, Rose, 1872), p. 27.
2 Ibid., 1872 (Toronto: Hunter, Rose, 1873), p. 18.
3 "Report of the Architect," Report of the Commissioner of Public Works 1889 (Toronto: Warwick & Sons, 1890), p. 10; "Report of Architect," Report of the Minister of Public Works 1921 (Toronto: Clarkson W. James, 1923), p. 13-16.
4 See footnote 1.

109 Renfrew County Court House
300 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, Ontario
Constructed: 1864-67 by Duncan Kippen[1]
Renovations: 1915
Architect: Unknown
Material: Freestone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Mrs. C. Price, Notes on the History of Renfrew County (Pembroke: Renfrew County Council, 1961), pp. 59-60.

110 Lanark County Court House
43 Drummond Street East, Perth, Ontario
Constructed: 1842-43 by Alexander Cuthbertson, David Smith and William Allen[1]
Renovations: 1960s
Architect: Malcolm Macpherson[2]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house and jail
(County of Lanark)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Minutes of the Municipal Council of the District of Bathurst, meetings of 1842-44.
2 Ibid., meeting of Feb. 1842.

111 Peterborough County Court House and Municipal Buildings
50 Water Street, Peterborough, Ontario
Constructed: 1838-42 by Joseph Scobell[1]
Renovations: 1878, 1917, additions 1927 and 1960[2]
Architect: Joseph Scobell[3]
Material: Limestone
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Court house, jail, registry office and county offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Martha Kidd)

1 Martha Kidd, "The County of Peterborough Court House and Jail," unpublished notes, Peterborough, 1976.
2 Ibid.; Peterborough Centennial Museum. Blackwell Papers, "Contract for Renovations to Peterborough Court House."
3 See footnote 1.

112 Prince Edward County Court House
44 Union Street, Picton, Ontario
Constructed: 1832-41,[1] designed by building committee of council[2] and built by McLeod and Gill[3]
Renovations: Cupola and portico added 1861[4]
Material: Limestone
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG22, Ser. 7, Vol. 161. General Quarter Sessions of the District of Prince Edward, Expenditures 1831-41, 8 July 1840.
2 Hallowell Free Press, Feb. 28 and March 13 1832.
3 "Accounts of the Treasurer of the District of Prince Edward 1832-33," reprinted in the Journal of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada (York: Robert Stanton, 1834), Appendices.
4 Ralph Greenhill, Ken MacPherson and Douglas Richardson, Ontario Towns (Toronto: Oberon Press, 1974), plate 22.

113 Lincoln County Court House
95 King Street, St. Catharines, Ontario
Constructed: 1848-49[1] by William Barron[2]
Renovations: Additions ca. 1858, 1864[3]
Architect: Kivas Tully[4]
Material: Limestone
Original Use: Town hall, market, jail and fire hall
Present Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, K. Crossman)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Minute Books of the Municipal Council of the Town of St. Catharines, meetings of 1842-50.
2 Ibid., meeting of 25 Aug. 1848.
3 Ibid., meeting of 14 Sept. 1863; "Addition Back to Town Hall," unpublished letter, County Building File, St. Catharines Historical Museum; Wilfred A. Miller, "Lincoln County Building," unpublished historical notes, St. Catharines Historical Museum, 1972.
4 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Minute Books of the Municipal Council of the Town of St. Catharines, meeting of 19 June 1848.

114 Elgin County Court House
4 Wellington Street, St. Thomas, Ontario
Constructed: 1852-54 by G. Ellwood and Thomas Fraser[1]
Renovations: Reconstructed 1898-99, renovated 1967[2]
Architect: John Turner[3]
Material: Brick and stone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Kenneth W. McKay, Court Houses of a Century (St. Thomas: Times Printing, 1901), p. 9.
2 Ibid., pp. 17-19; W.N. Greer, "St. Thomas Court House," Government of Ontario, Historical Building Study Report, 1976.
3 Kenneth W. McKay, loc. cit.

115 Algoma District Court House
440 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Constructed: 1919-22[1] by D. Jannison and Son[2]
Architect: Government of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Frank R. Heakes, chief architect[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house, jail, registry office and offices
(Archives of Ontario)

1 Report of the Minister of Public Works for Ontario, 1922 (Toronto: A.T. Wilgress, 1923).
2 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG15, Box 9, Records of the Department of Public Works Correspondence Files 1919-23, G.E. Waldron to Hon. F.C. Biggs, 23 June 1920.
3 Ibid.

116 Norfolk County Court House
36 Colborne Street, Simcoe, Ontario
Constructed: 1863-64 by George and John Jackson[1]
Renovations: Addition 1920s, renovations 1977[2]
Architect: John Turner
Material: Stone and brick
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

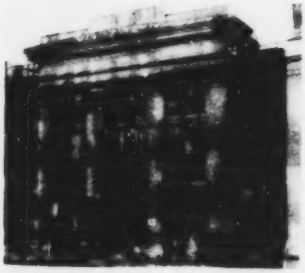
1 D. Ferguson, The Norfolk County Court House, 2nd ed. (Simcoe: Norfolk County Historical Society, 1975), pp. 3, 9.
2 Ibid., p. 21.

117 Perth County Court House
1 Huron Street, Stratford, Ontario
Constructed: 1885-87 by Scrimgeour Brothers[1]
Architect: George F. Durand
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Hugh Johnston and W. Stafford Johnston, History of Perth County to 1967 (Stratford: County of Perth, 1967), pp. 65-69.

118 District of Thunder Bay Court House
277 Cameron Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario
Constructed: 1923-24[1] by J. McDiarmid[2]
Architect: Government of Ontario, Department of Public Works; Frank R. Heakes, chief architect[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house and jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Report of the Department of Public Works for Ontario, 1923 (Toronto: King's Printer, 1924).
2 Report of the Department of Public Works for Ontario, 1922 (Toronto: King's Printer, 1923), p. 13.
3 Ibid.



119 York County Court House
57 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario
Constructed: 1852-53[1] by John Ritchey[2]
Renovations: Interior alterations ca. 1900, 1977[3]
Architects: F.W. Cumberland and Thomas Ridout[4]
Material: White brick and stone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Theatre
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Ontario. Archives of Ontario, RG21, Minutes of the Municipal Council of the United Counties of York, Ontario and Peel, 1852-53.
2 Ibid., p. 38.
3 "Plans to Remodel Old York Building, Revive its History," The Globe (Toronto), 17 Nov. 1930.
4 See footnote 1, first meeting 1852, p. 37.

120 Toronto City Hall and York County Court House
60 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario
Constructed: 1889-1900[1] by John Elliott[2]
Renovations: New roof 1920s, renovated 1960s
Architect: E.J. Lennox[3]
Material: Credit Valley stone
Original Use: Court house and city hall
Present Use: Court house
(City of Toronto Archives)

1 City of Toronto Archives, Civic Advisory Committee, "Historical Outline of Toronto's Municipal Buildings," p. 6-9.
2 Ibid., p. 7.
3 Ibid.

121 Osgoode Hall
Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario
Constructed: 1829-32[1] by John Ritchey[2]
Renovations: West wing and arcade added 1844-46, centre block reconstructed 1857-59[3]
Architects: W.W. Baldwin and John Ewart[4]
Material: Brick, faced with a stone veneer
Use: Court house and Law Society of Upper Canada offices
(Archives of Ontario)

1 D.B. Read, Lives of the Judges of Upper Canada and Ontario from 1791 to the Present Time (Toronto: Rowsell and Hutchinson, 1888), p. 435.
2 Eric Arthur, "Osgoode Hall," The Law Society of Upper Canada Gazette Commemorative Issue, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Dec. 1972), pp. 21-22.
3 Ibid., p. 22.
4 D.B. Read, op. cit., pp. 435-49.

122 Bruce County Court House
203 Cayley Street, Walkerton, Ontario
Constructed: 1865-66[1] by John Elliott[2]
Renovations: Addition 1966
Architect: David Murray[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, K. Crossman)

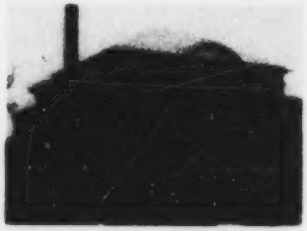
1 Norman Robertson, History of the County of Bruce (Toronto: William Briggs, 1906; reprinted Walkerton: Bruce County Historical Society, 1960), pp. 82-103.
2 Ibid., p. 98.
3 Ibid.

123 Welland County Court House
102 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario
Constructed: 1855-56 by John Helms and William Bald[1]
Renovations: 1913, addition 1952
Architect: Kivas Tully[2]
Material: Limestone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: City hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 History of the County of Welland (Welland: Welland Tribune, 1887), pp. 139-40 and 408-10.
2 Ibid., p. 408-10.

124 Ontario County Court House
416 Centre Street, Whitby, Ontario
Constructed: 1853-54 by James Wallace[1]
Renovations: 1864, 1882, 1966, additions 1873 and 1910[2]
Architects: Frederick William Cumberland and William George Storm[3]
Material: Brick and Ohio freestone
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Community centre
(Whitby Historical Society)

1 William H. Higgins, The Life and Times of Joseph Gould (Toronto: C.H. Blackett Robinson, 1887), p. 182.
2 Brian Winter (Whitby), unpublished notes.
3 William H. Higgins, loc. cit.



125 Essex County Court House
3277 Sandwich Street, Windsor, Ontario
Constructed: 1835[1] by McKenzie Brothers
Renovations: Roof modified pre-1909, additions 1930 and 1953
Architect: Albert K. Jordan[2]
Material: Stone
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Storage
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Peter John Stokes, "Essex County Court House." Manuscript on file, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1963.
2 Ibid.

126 Oxford County Court House
441 Hunter Street, Woodstock, Ontario
Constructed: 1890-92[1] by W.C. Smith and Co., and A.J. Brown[2]
Architects: R.T. Brooks, Cuthbertson and Fowler[3]
Material: Stone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, K. Crossman)

1 L.K. Coles, "The Court House," County of Oxford Historical Items No. 6 (1967).
2 Ibid., p. 2; Minutes of the County Council of Oxford (n.p., n.d.), meeting of June 8 1893.
3 Ibid.

127 Court House
1104 Princess Street, Brandon, Manitoba
Constructed: 1908-10[1] by Brandon Construction Co.[2]
Architects: Province of Manitoba, Department of Public Works; Samuel Hooper, provincial architect, and W.A. Elliott[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 "New Court House Splendid Building," Brandon Weekly Sun, 8 Sept. 1910.
2 "Court House Contract Let," Brandon Weekly Sun, 27 Aug. 1908, p. 2.
3 Manitoba. Legislature. "Annual Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1909 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1910), p. 304; Manitoba. Legislature. "Report of the Municipal Commissioner," in Sessional Papers, 1910 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1911), p. 62.

128 City Jail
2 Louise Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba
Constructed: 1883-84[1] by Alex Smith and Co.[2]
Renovations: Converted to a jail 1910-11[3]
Architect: C.Osborne Wickenden[4]
Material: Brick and stone
Original use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Jail
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 "Spring Assizes," Weekly Mail (Brandon), 20 March 1884, p. 1.
2 Manitoba Free Press (Winnipeg), 13 July 1883, p. 8.
3 Manitoba. Legislature, "Public Works Annual Report for 1912," in Sessional Papers (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1913), p. 632.
4 "Tenders," Manitoba Free Press (Winnipeg), 28 April 1883, p. 5.

129 Court House
114 River Avenue West, Dauphin, Manitoba
Constructed: 1916-17[1] by Samuel Brown[2]
Architect: J.H. Boasons[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 "Dauphin's New Court House is the Pride of Town and District," Manitoba Free Press (Winnipeg), 27 Oct. 1917, p. 25.
2 Herald (Dauphin), 6 July 1916.
3 "Tenders for Public Building," Herald (Dauphin), 29 June 1916, p. 4.

131 Court House
70-3rd Street S.W., Minnedosa, Manitoba
Constructed: 1908-9[1] by Charles Jeffrey[2]
Renovations: Interior 1911, 1923, 1943, 1946, 1963[3]
Architects: Manitoba, Department of Public Works; Samuel Hooper, provincial architect[4]
Material: Brick and stone
Use: Court house, jail and offices
(Tribune, Minnedosa, 23 Dec. 1909, p. 5)

1 Tribune (Minnedosa), 31 March 1910, p. 5.
2 Mercury (Minnedosa), 2 July 1908, p. 1.
3 Manitoba. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers (Winnipeg: King's Printer), 1912, p. 432; 1933, p. 8; 1942, p. 9; 1944, p. 11; 1947, p. 5; 1951, p. 44; 1952, p. 33; 1964, p. 22; 1968, p. 24.
4 Manitoba. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1909 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1910), p. 505.

130 Court House and Town Hall
Church Street at Winnipeg, Emerson, Manitoba
Constructed: 1917-18,[1] builder unknown
Architects: John D. Atchison and Co.[2]
Material: Brick with stone trim
Use: Court house and town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 "Town Hall Opened," Journal (Emerson), 2 Aug. 1918, p. 1.
2 Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for 1917 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1918), p. 10.

132 Court House
301 Wardrop Street, Morden, Manitoba
Constructed: 1904-5[1] by T.T. Thompson[2]
Architect: Samuel Hooper[3]
Material: Fieldstone
Original Use: Court house and jail
Present Use: Court house
(Manitoba. Public Buildings Erected and Improved...1900 to 1906, Winnipeg: n.p., 1906)

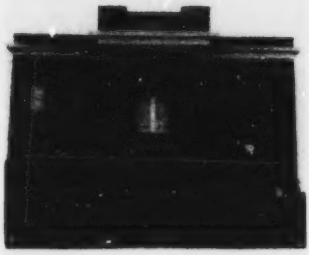
1 "Judicial Buildings," Morden Empire, 11 Jan. 1906, p. 8.
2 Ibid., 30 June 1904, p. 6.
3 Ibid., 19 May 1904 p. 5.

133 Old Court House
282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, Manitoba
Constructed: 1883-84[1] by Gossil and Dykeman[2]
Architect: C.Osborne Wickenden[3]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house, town hall, jail and theatre
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Canadian (Neepawa), 25 Dec. 1884.
2 Ibid., 26 June 1884.
3 Ibid.

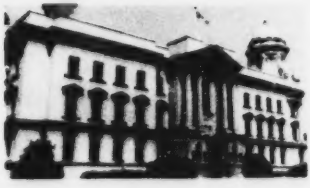
134 Court House and Jail
10-3rd Street S.E., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
Constructed: 1894-95[1] by T.M. Beamish[2]
Renovations: Porte cochère added 1912-13[3]
Architect: George Browne Jr.[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 "In the New Court House," Weekly Review (Portage la Prairie), 21 Nov. 1895, p. 4.
2 Ibid., 28 June 1894, p. 5.
3 Manitoba. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1914, (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1915), p. 469.
4 "In the New Court House," Weekly Review (Portage la Prairie), 6 Dec. 1894, p. 8.



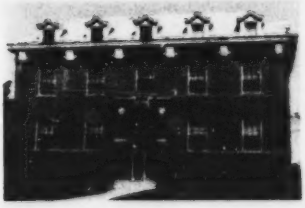
135 Community Building
306 Fischer Avenue, The Pas, Manitoba
Constructed: 1916-17[1] by Snyder Brothers[2]
Architect: George Nelson Taylor[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house, town hall, and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Manitoba Free Press (Winnipeg), 17 Nov. 1917, p. 6.
2 "Community Building Contract Given Out," Ibid., 8 Sept. 1916, p. 6.
3 "Tenders," Herald and Mining News (The Pas), 18 Aug. 1916, p. 6.



136 Law Courts Building
391 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Constructed: 1912-16[1] by National Construction Co.[2]
Renovations: Addition 1914[3]
Architects: Samuel Hooper and Victor W. Horwood, provincial architects[4]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with cut limestone
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Manitoba. Legislature, "Report of the Provincial Architect," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1914), p. 448.
2 City of Winnipeg. Building Permit 2763/1912, issued 23 July 1912.
3 Manitoba. Legislature, "Report of the Provincial Architect," in Sessional Papers, 1914 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1915), p. 472.
4 See footnote 2.



137 Court House
Souris Avenue, Arcola, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1908-9[1] by Thomas Grayson[2]
Architects: Edgar M. Storey and William G. Van Egmond[3]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

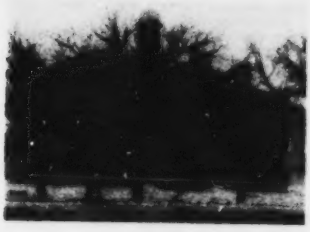
1 Saskatchewan. Archives, Department of Public Works Collection, file 137 II.
2 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1908-09 (Regina; King's Printer, 1909), p. 111.
3 Saskatchewan Archives, Department of Public Works Collection, file 137 II, Deputy Commissioner to Darling and Pearson, 23 Aug. 1907.

138 Court House
700 Centre Street, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1929-30 by J.L. Guay Construction Co.[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Saskatchewan. Legislature. Sessional Papers, 1929-30, Regina: King's Printer, 1930, n.p.)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1929-30 (Regina: King's Printer, 1930), p. 26.
2 Ibid.

139 Court House
291-23rd Street West, Battleford, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1908-9[1] by Saskatchewan Building and Construction Co.[2]
Architects: Edgar M. Storey and William G. Van Egmond[3]
Material: Brick, limestone trim
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Saskatchewan. Archives, Department of Public Works Collection, file 138, Saskatchewan Building and Construction Co. to F.J. Robinson, 16 Jan. 1909.
2 Ibid., F.J. Robinson to Saskatchewan Building and Construction Co., 22 Nov. 1907.
3 Ibid., F.J. Robinson to Darling and Pearson, 9 May 1907.



140 Court House
1016-4th Avenue, Estevan, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1929 by Wilson and Wilson Limited[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1929-30 (Regina: King's Printer, 1930), p. 216.
2 Ibid.

141 Court House (See Figure 138)
415 Main Street, Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1926-27 by Smith Brothers and Wilson[1]
Renovations: Front porch altered 1941, interior 1965[2]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[3]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Public Service Monthly, Vol. 14, No. 11, June 1926, p. 9)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1926-27 (Regina: King's Printer, 1927), p. 27.
2 Ibid., 1941-42, p. 38 and 1965-66, p. 37.
3 See footnote 1.

142 Court House and Land Titles Building
8th Avenue, Humboldt, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1914-16 by Parsons Engineering and Construction Co.[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; B. Raymond Philbrick, director[2]
Material: Reinforced concrete on steel frame, brick and limestone
Use: Court house and registry office
(Saskatchewan. Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1914-15, Regina: King's Printer, 1915)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1914-15 (Regina: King's Printer, 1915), p. 34.
2 Ibid.

143 Court House
Manitoba Avenue, Kerrobert, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1920 by Wilson and Wilson[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Saskatchewan. Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1920-21, Regina: King's Printer, 1921, p. 25)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1920-21 (Regina: King's Printer, 1921), p. 25.
2 Ibid.

144 Court House (See Figure 138)
409 Main Street, Melfort, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1923 by Wilson and Wilson Limited[1]
Renovations: Interior 1965[2]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[3]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Public Service Monthly, Vol. 14, No. 11, June 1926, p. 9)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1928-29 (Regina: King's Printer, 1929), p. 29.
2 Ibid., 1965-66, p. 37.
3 Ibid., 1928-29, p. 29.

145 Municipal Building
420 Main Street, Melville, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1912-13,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Addition ca. 1976
Architects: Edgar M. Storey and William G. Van Egmond[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Original Use: Court house and town hall
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

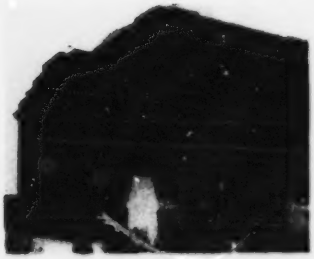
1 "Melville Celebrates Opening of Fine New Municipal Buildings," Regina Leader, 6 Nov. 1913, p. 5.
2 Saskatchewan. Archives, "Listing of Contracts and Designs by D.W. Van Egmond and Stanley E. Storey," prepared by Thomas White, contract no. 211.

146 Court House (See Figure 138)
64 Ominica Street West, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1908-9 by Smith Brothers and Wilson[1]
Renovations: Interior renovations and exterior rehabilitation 1971-73[2]
Architects: Frank Darling and J.A. Pearson[3]
Material: Pressed brick and Bedford stone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1908-09 (Regina: King's Printer, 1909), p. 110.
2 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1970-71 (Regina: Queen's Printer, 1971), p. 20.
3 Saskatchewan. Archives, Department of Public Works Collection, file 136 1, the Deputy Commissioner to Darling and Pearson, 4 May 1907.

147 Court House
908 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1927-28 by Smith Brothers and Wilson[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house and registry office
Present use: Court house
(Saskatchewan Archives photograph, A5197)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1927-28 (Regina: King's Printer, 1928), p. 23-29.
2 Ibid.

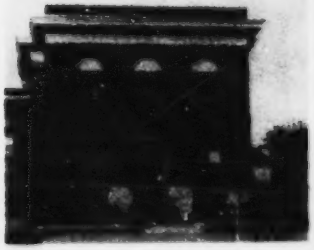


148 Court House (See Figure 138)
401-3rd Street West, Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1926-27 by Smith Brothers and Wilson[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Public Service Monthly, Vol. 14, No. 11, June 1926, p. 9)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1926-27 (Regina: King's Printer, 1927), p. 27; Regina Leader, 20 Apr. 1927, p. 2.
2 Ibid.

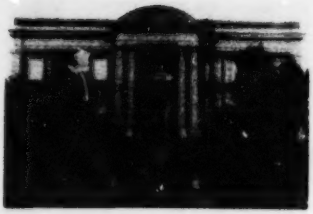
149 Court House and Land Titles Office
107 Lorne Avenue West, Swift Current, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1914-16 by R.J. Lecky Co.[1]
Architect: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house and registry office
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1915-16 (Regina: King's Printer, 1916), p. 19.
2 Ibid.



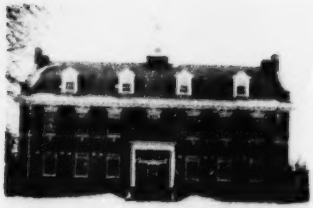
150 Court House
301 Prairie Avenue N.E., Weyburn, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1928 by Mason and Wilson[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 "New Court Houses in Weyburn and Melfort," Public Service Monthly, Vol. 16 (June 1928), p. 7.
2 Ibid.



131 Lakeside Senior Citizen's Home
Ouimet Street at Richmond, Wolseley, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1894-95[1] by E.A. Banbury and R.A. McGee[2]
Renovations: Extensive exterior and interior alterations 1920-21[3]
Architects: Dominion of Canada, Department of Public Works; Thomas Fuller, chief architect[4]
Material: Brick on fieldstone foundation
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Nursing home
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, R.R. Rostecki)

1 "Opening of the Wolseley Court House," Regina Leader, 10 Oct. 1895, p. 8.
2 Canada. Parliament, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers 58 Victoria, A 1895, 9, Appendix 2 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1896), pp. 46-47.
3 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of Department of Public Works 1920-21 (Regina: King's Printer, 1921), p. 25.
4 See footnote 2.



132 Court House (See Figure 138)
210-4th Street East, Wynyard, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1926-27 by Smith Brothers and Wilson[1]
Renovations: Interior 1965[2]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[3]
Material: Brick over reinforced concrete on a steel frame
Use: Court house
(Public Service Monthly, Vol. 14, No. 11, June 1926, p. 9)

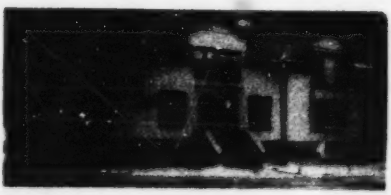
1 Saskatchewan, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works 1926-27 (Regina: King's Printer, 1927), p. 27.
2 Ibid., 1965-66, p. 39.
3 Ibid., 1926-27, p. 27.

133 Court House
29 Darlington Street East, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Constructed: 1919-20 by Minkley and Jones[1]
Architects: Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works; Maurice W. Sharon, provincial architect[2]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Saskatchewan. Archives, Department of Public Works Collection, file 218, "Yorkton Court House."
2 Ibid.

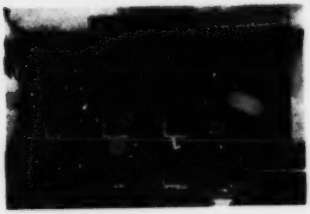
135 Calgary Court House
530-7th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta
Constructed: 1912-14[1] by Quinlan-Carter Limited[2]
Renovations: Interior 1923, 1974[3]
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; A.M. Jeffers and R.P. Blakey, provincial architects[4]
Material: Sandstone
Original Use: Court House
Present Use: Museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Alberta. Provincial Archives, Alberta Sessional Papers No. 45 (1913), "A Return to an Order of the House Showing Cost of Public Buildings, 1905 to 1915 Inclusive," Accession No. 70.414, box 5.
2 Alberta. Legislature, "Public Works," in Annual Public Accounts, Report 1912 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1913), pp. 136-37; ibid., 1913, pp. 144-45.
3 Alberta. Provincial Archives, Acc. No. 76-213, Item 115-2859A: "Conversion of old Calgary Court House into gaol, 24March 21, 1914," Herald (Calgary), 13 Jan. 1975.
4 Alberta. Legislature, "Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1914), pp. 33-36.



134 Blairmore Court House
Highway 3 East, Blairmore, Alberta
Constructed: 1923 by Watson and Abercrombie[1]
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; R.P. Blakey, provincial architect[2]
Material: Brick, concrete and hollow tile
Use: Court house and police station
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Alberta. Legislature, "Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1923 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1924), p. 38.
2 Ibid.



156 Cardston Court House
89-3rd Avenue S.W., Cardston, Alberta
Constructed: 1906-8[1] by Samuel S. Newton[2]
Renovations: 1926, 1967, 1973[3]
Architect: Alberta, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Sandstone
Use: Court house, offices and NWMP depot
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Annual Report of the Department of Public Works of Alberta 1908 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1909), p. 67.
2 Annual Public Accounts Report, 1907 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1908), p. 71.
3 Annual Report of the Department of Public Works, 1926 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1927), p. 32; Correspondence, J.B. Roberts, Physical Plant Manager, Lethbridge, to Miss A. Cooke, Alberta Culture, 23 Mar. 1977.
4 See footnote 2.

157 Fort McLeod Court House
234-23rd Street, Fort McLeod, Alberta
Constructed: 1902-4[1] by Patrick Navin[2]
Renovations: Interior 1914, 1925, ca. 1971[3]
Architects: Canada, Department of Public Works; David Ewart, chief architect[4]
Material: Brick
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Town hall
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Records of the Department of Public Works, Vol. 3906, pp. 66 and 132.
2 Canada. Parliament, "Report of the Department of Public Works" in Sessional Papers, 1904, No. 19, Vol. 38, No. 7 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1905, Appendix 2), p. 21.
3 Alberta. Department of Public Works, Annual Report, 1914, pp. 42-43; Alberta. Orders in Council 839/12; Gazette (Fort MacLeod), 11 Feb. 1971.
4 See footnote 2.

158 Old Court House
Government Street, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
Constructed: 1909 by day labour supervised by Department of Public Works[1]
Renovations: ca. 1961, 1971-75[2]
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; A.M. Jeffers, provincial architect[3]
Material: Brick on rubble stone foundation
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

1 Alberta. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works, 1909," in Sessional Papers, 1909-10 (Edmonton: King's Printer 1910), pp. 37-38.
2 Journal (Edmonton), 12 Apr. 1975, p. 40.
3 See footnote 1.

159 Grande Prairie Court Hous.. (No Photo)
10032-100th Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta
Constructed: 1928-29[1] by J.L. Arnett[2]
Renovations: Moved and interior renovated 1956[3]
Architect: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Wood frame, stucco
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Library

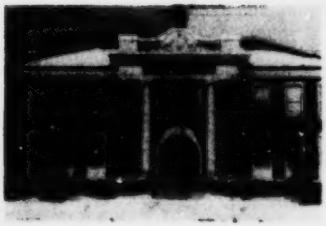
1 Isabel M. Campbell, Grande Prairie, Capital of the Peace (Grande Prairie: n.p., 1963), pp. 39-40.
2 Alberta. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 76-213, Public Records Collection, 76/14, Item No. 9-2819c, "List of Tenderers, Grande Prairie Court House, July 16 1928."
3 Ibid., Public Records Collection, Acc. No. 76-213, correspondence regarding removal of former court house to lots 15, 16 and 17, block 4, plan 7152h, summer, 1956.
4 Isabel M. Campbell, op. cit.

161 Medicine Hat Court House
460 First Street S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta
Constructed: 1919-20 by Bennett and White[1]
Renovations: Interior 1968-69
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; R.P. Blakey, provincial architect[2]
Material: Brick and stone on a steel superstructure
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Alberta. Department of Public Works, Annual Report, 1919 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1920), p. 63.
2 Ibid.

160 Hanna Court House
502 Centre Street, Hanna, Alberta
Constructed: 1928 by Scanlon[1]
Renovations: Interior ca. 1969
Architect: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Wood frame, rough cast
Use: Court house
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

1 Herald (Hanna), 30 May 1929, p. 1.
2 Ibid.



162 Red Deer Court House
4836 Ross Street, Red Deer, Alberta
Constructed: 1930-31 by J.P. Desrochers[1]
Renovations: Addition 1958
Architect: Alberta, Department of Public Works[2]
Material: Steel and concrete, brick and Tyndall stone
Use: Court house
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

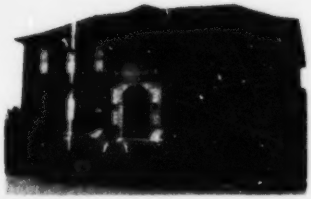
1 Report of the Department of Public Works 1930-31 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1931), pp. 29-30.
2 Ibid.

163 Stettler Court House
6301-44th Street, Stettler, Alberta
Constructed: 1908,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Interior 1914,[2] 1974, moved 1974
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: School
Present Use: Museum (court house 1914-74)
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

1 Alberta. Legislature, "Public Accounts, 1914," in Sessional Papers, 1914 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1915), p. 190.
2 Independent (Stettler), 19 March 1914, p. 1; telephone interview with J. Burrell, Stettler Museum, 19 May 1977.

164 Taber Court House
4902-53rd Street, Taber, Alberta
Constructed: 1918 by Hotson and Depew[1]
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; R.P. Blakey, provincial architect[2]
Material: Brick on a concrete foundation
Use: Court house
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

1 Alberta. Department of Public Works, Annual Report, 1918 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1919), p. 88.
2 Ibid.



165 Vegreville Court House
4904-50th Street, Vegreville, Alberta
Constructed: 1930-31[1] by Foote and Allyn[2]
Renovations: Interior 1961 and ca. 1967, addition ca. 1967[3]
Architect: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Brick
Use: Court house
(Historic Sites Service, Alberta Culture)

1 S.H. Hardin, History of Greater Vegreville (Vegreville: n.p., 1968), p. 48.
2 Alberta. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 76-213, Records of the Department of Public Works 1930-31, box 33, item no. 122.
3 Court clerk, Vegreville Court House, telephone interview, 2 June 1977.
4 Alberta. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 70-414, Records of the Department of Public Works 1930-31, box 33, p. 23.

166 Wetaskiwin Court House
4705-50th Street, Wetaskiwin, Alberta
Constructed: 1907-9[1] by D.J. McLaughlin[2]
Architects: Province of Alberta, Department of Public Works; A.M. Jeffers, provincial architect[3]
Material: Brick, Calgary sandstone and concrete
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Alberta. Legislature, "Annual Report, Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1909 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1910), p. 77.
2 Post (Wetaskiwin), 29 Oct. 1907, p. 1.
3 Alberta. Annual Report of the Department of Public Works, 1908 (Edmonton: King's Printer, 1909), p. 56.

167 Former Provincial Government Building
601 Railway Avenue, Ashcroft, British Columbia
Constructed: 1911,[1] builder unknown
Renovations: Converted to court house use 1925-26[2]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Stage express office
Present Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Journal (Ashcroft), 11 Feb. 1911.
2 British Columbia. Legislature, "Expenditures 1 April 1925-31 - March 1926," in Sessional Papers, 1926-27 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1927), Vol. 1, N-261; ibid., "Public Works Report," Vol. 2, Q-104.

168 Old Provincial Government Building
Second Street, Atlin, British Columbia
Constructed: 1900[1] by F. Hinds and/or David Main[2]
Renovations: Addition ca. 1905, moved 1955, interior renovated at unknown dates[3]
Architect: Edward G. Garden[4]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house, registry office and offices
Present Use: Residence and museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Legislature. "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1900 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1901), pp. 489-91.
2 Ibid., "Public Accounts," p. 109 states the contractor is F. Hinds; Claim (Atlin), 24 Aug. 1900 indicates the builder was David Main.
3 Telephone interview, Robert Hall, British Columbia government agent, Atlin.
4 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 28, file 442.

169 Fernie Court House
401-4th Avenue, Fernie, British Columbia
Constructed: 1909-11[1] by James A. Broley[2]
Renovations: 1913, ca. 1956[3]
Architects: George Stanley Rees, and Honeyman and Curtis[4]
Material: Brick, British Columbia granite and Calgary sandstone
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 Free Press (Fernie), 10 March 1911, p. 1.
2 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1912 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1913), C-132; British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 23, file 402.
3 Ibid., "Public Accounts Reports, 1913," p. 11; British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Public Works Records, 74-G-65, Vol. 49, file 633; Telephone interview with government agent, Fernie, 6 Jan. 1977.
4 See footnote 2.

170 Former Provincial Government Building
Main Street, Fort Steele, British Columbia
Constructed: 1897[1] by J.J. Lamont[2]
Renovations: One storey added 1900, moved and converted to hotel at unknown date[3]
Architect: Unknown
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house and offices
Present Use: Hotel
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Sites)

1 Prospector (Fort Steele), 2 Oct. 1897, p. 1.
2 Ibid., 27 Aug. 1897, p. 1.
3 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts Reports," in Sessional Papers, 1901 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1902), p. 104; Courier (Cranbrook), 23 Jan. 1963, p. 11.

171 Grand Forks Court House
322 Central Avenue East, Grand Forks, British Columbia
Constructed: 1911-12[1] by Robert Gaw[2]
Renovations: Interior 1970[3]
Architect: R. Farrar Lawrence[4]
Material: Brick with marble trim
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1914), p. 77.
2 Ibid., "Public Accounts Reports, 1913," Vol. 1, C-138.
3 Telephone interview with government agent, Grand Forks.
4 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 28, file 447.

172 Greenwood Court House
127 Government Street, Greenwood, British Columbia
Constructed: 1902-3[1] by Smith Brothers[2]
Architect: George Dillon Curtis[3]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Town hall and museum
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1905 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1906), C-8.
2 Ibid., Sessional Papers, 1904 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1905), E-128.
3 Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Biographical Files No. 35 and 36.

173 Kamloops Court House
7 West Seymour Street, Kamloops, British Columbia
Constructed: 1908-9[1] by Broley and Martin[2]
Renovations: Additions 1910, 1912 and 1960s, interior renovated at various dates
Architects: J.J. Honeyman and G.D. Curtis[3]
Material: Brick with stone trim
Use: Court house, registry office and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

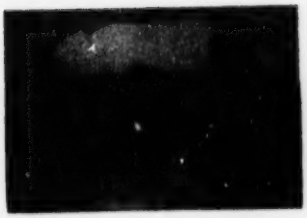
1 Inland Sentinal (Kamloops), 15 Dec. 1909, p. 1.
2 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Public Works Records, box 23, file 397.
3 Ibid.

174 Kaslo Provincial Building
4th Street at A Avenue, Kaslo, British Columbia
Constructed: 1910-11 by John Burns and Son[1]
Renovations: Interior 1966[2]
Architect: William King[3]
Material: Brick, concrete and Kaslo marble
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Record, Vol. 25, file 420.
2 Graham Brawn & Associates, "Court Facilities Inventory." Manuscript on file, British Columbia Department of Public Works, Victoria (1974), Vol. 2, n.p.
3 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1914), C-130.

175 Merritt Court House
1840 Nicola Avenue, Merritt, British Columbia
Constructed: 1914[1] by James Layfield[2]
Renovations: Additions 1931, 1957 and 1975, renovations 1973[3]
Architect: British Columbia, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Wood frame
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Vol. 30, file 463.
2 Merritt Herald and Nicola Valley Advocate, 6 Jan. 1914.
3 British Columbia. Merritt, Office of the Government Agent, "Plan showing various additions to original Merritt Court House, pocket 1."
4 See footnote 1.

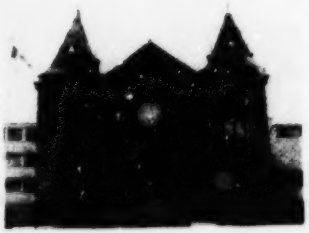


176 Provincial Government Building
415 Broadway, Nakusp, British Columbia
Constructed: 1909-10 by William Gillett[1]
Renovations: Interior 1951, 1961, 1971[2]
Architect: Evered Criddle[3]
Material: Wood frame
Use: Court house, jail and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, GR 54, Public Works Records, Vol. 19, file 322.
2 British Columbia. Department of Public Works, Plan Library, No. 87-1.
3 See footnote 1.

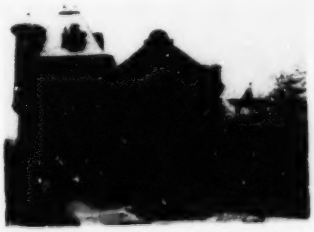
179 New Westminster Court House
633 Clarkson Street, New Westminster, British Columbia
Constructed: 1890-91[1] by W. Turnbull[2]
Renovations: Reconstructed after a fire 1899-1900, extensive interior alterations 1911-12, front addition and interior alterations 1915-16[3]
Architect: G.W. Grant[4]
Material: Brick and stone
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1893 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1894), p. 349.
2 Ibid., Sessional Papers, 1891 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1892), p. 248.
3 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 26, file 407; British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts 1 July 1898 - 30 June 1899," in Sessional Papers, 1900 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1901), p. 113; ibid., "Public Accounts 1 April 1910 - 31 July 1911," in Sessional Papers, 1912 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1913), C-132; ibid., "Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1916 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1917), Vol. 1, C-179; and C-193; ibid., "Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1917 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1918), Vol. 1, C-161.
4 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts, 1888," in Sessional Papers, 1888 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1889), p. 78.



177 Provincial Court House
31 Front Street, Nanaimo, British Columbia
Constructed: 1895-96 by Bradbury and Hurst[1]
Renovations: Addition 1937, renovations 1973[2]
Architect: Francis Mawson Rattenbury[3]
Material: Protection Island sandstone
Use: Court house
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Free Press (Nanaimo), 31 Dec. 1895, p. 1.
2 Graham Brawn & Associates, "Court Facilities Inventory." Manuscript on file, British Columbia Department of Public Works, Victoria (1974), Vol. 1, n.p.
3 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1895 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1896), p. 367.



178 Nelson Court House
320 Ward Street, Nelson, British Columbia
Constructed: 1907-9[1] by W.G. Gillett[2]
Renovations: Interior 1914, 1926, 1966-68[3]
Architect: Francis Mawson Rattenbury[4]
Material: Salmo marble over brick
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Records box 24, file 406.
2 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Works Report 1908," in Sessional Papers 1908 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1909), H-44.
3 Ibid., Sessional Papers, 1915 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1916), Vol. 2, Q-138; ibid., "Annual Expenditures," in Sessional Papers, 1926-27 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1927), Vol. 1, N-262; Telephone interview with G.L. Brodie, government agent at Nelson, 24 Feb. 1977.
4 See footnote 1.

180 Former Nicola Court House
Nicola, British Columbia
Constructed: 1914[1] by James Layfield[2]
Renovations: Converted to residential use ca. 1919, interior and exterior alterations at unknown dates[3]
Architect: British Columbia, Department of Public Works[4]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Residence
(Courtesy of Mrs. Joanne Drake)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession No. 75-G-65, Vol. 30, file 463.
2 Merritt Herald and Nicola Valley Advocate, 6 Jan. 1914.
3 Personal correspondence, Mrs. Joanne Drake, Merritt, British Columbia, 18 Dec. 1976.
4 See footnote 1.

181 Prince Rupert Court House (No Photo)
Market Square, Prince Rupert, British Columbia
Constructed: 1921-22[1] by Albert and McCaffery[2]
Renovations: Interior ca. 1970, 1976[3]
Architects: British Columbia, Department of Public Works; Henry Whittaker, supervising architect[4]
Material: Clayburn brick and Haddington Island stone
Use: Court house and offices

1 The Advocate (Prince Rupert), Aug.-Sept. 1969, cover story.
2 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Record, Vol. 54, file 696.
3 Telephone interview, H.W. Harding, government agent, Prince Rupert, 13 Dec. 1976.
4 See footnote 2.

182 Provincial Government Building (No Photo)
151 Vermilion Street, Princeton, British Columbia
Constructed: 1929-30 by McLean and Giddings[1]
Renovations: Rear addition and interior renovations ca. 1964[2]
Architect: British Columbia, Department of Public Works[3]
Material: Wood frame (cedar siding and half-timbering)
Use: Court house and offices

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, GR71, Public Works Records, Vol. 13, file 193.
2 Telephone interview, W.L. Marshall, Princeton government agent, 20 April 1977.
3 See footnote 1.

183 Revelstoke Court House
111-3rd Street West, Revelstoke, British Columbia
Constructed: 1911-13[1] by Foote and Pradolini[2]
Renovations: Interior 1973-77[3]
Architect: Thomas Hooper[4]
Material: Steel frame, reinforced concrete faced with brick and granite
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

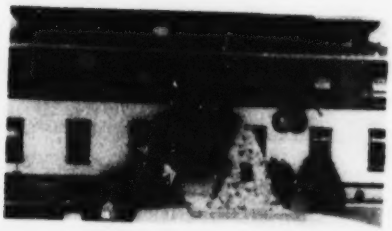
1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts 1915," in Sessional Papers, 1915 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1916), Vol. 1, C-116.
2 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 23, file 416.
3 Graham Brawn & Associates, "Court Facilities Inventory." Manuscript on file, British Columbia Department of Public Works, Victoria (1974), Vol. 2, n.p.
4 See footnote 1.

184 Supreme Court House
Richfield, British Columbia
Constructed: 1882 by I.B. Nason[1]
Renovations: Extensive interior alterations 1963[2]
Architect: British Columbia, Department of Public Works[3]
Material: Wood
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Museum
(A.W. Kerr, British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Works Report," in Sessional Papers, 1883 (Victoria: Queen's Printer 1884), p. 291.
2 Alastair W. Kerr, "The Restoration of Historic Barkerville," Canadian Collector, Vol. 11, NO. 3 (May/June 1970), p. 30.
3 See footnote 1.

185 Rossland Court House
2288 Columbia Street, Rossland, British Columbia
Constructed: 1898-1901[1] by James Lawn and the Department of Public Works[2]
Renovations: Modifications 1913[3]
Architect: J.J. Honeyman[4]
Material: Brick on ashlar limestone foundation
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 The Advocate (Vancouver), Aug.-Sept. 1976, No. 34, Pt. 5, cover story.
2 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1900 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1901), p. 389; ibid., 1901 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1902), p. 488.
3 Ibid., "Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1914), Vol. I, C.130.
4 Ibid., "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1899 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1900), Vol. 2, p. 863.

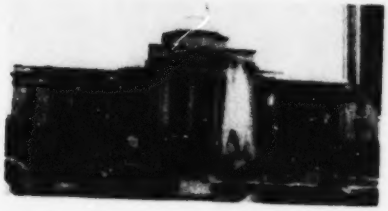


187 Provincial Government Building
1 Main Street, Smithers, British Columbia
Constructed: 1925 by Hanson and Shockley[1]
Renovations: Alterations and addition 1953
Architects: British Columbia, Department of Public Works; H. Whittaker, supervising architect[2]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house and offices
Present Use: Museum and community centre
(T.B. White, Provincial Department of Public Works, Prince George, British Columbia)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, GR 54, Public Works Records, Vol. 59, file 772.
2 Ibid.

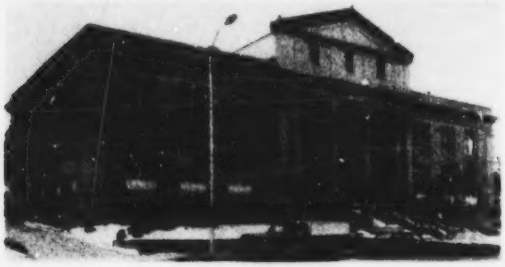
186 Provincial Government Building
3715 Hudson Street, Salmon Arm, British Columbia
Constructed: 1929-30[1] by William J. Reader[2]
Renovations: Addition at unknown date, interior renovations ca. 1974[3]
Architects: British Columbia, Department of Public Works; H. Whittaker, chief architect[4]
Material: Brick, wood frame and stucco
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Works - Report of the Chief Architect," in Sessional Papers, 1931 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1932), T-26.
2 British Columbia. Public Archives, Accession GR 71, Public Works Records, Vol. 13, file 194.
3 Graham Brawn & Associates, "Court Facilities Inventory." Manuscript on file, British Columbia Department of Public Works, Victoria (1974), Vol. 2, n.p.
4 See footnote 1.



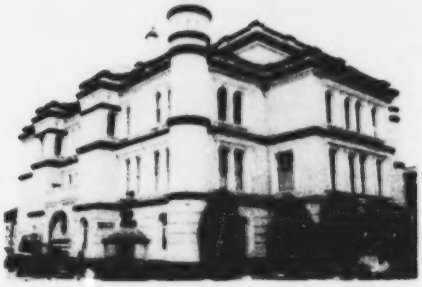
188 Provincial Court House
800 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia
Constructed: 1907-11[1] by McDonald, Wilson and Snyder[2]
Renovations: Addition 1911-14, alterations 1951, 1959 and 1967[3]
Architect: Francis Mawson Rattenbury[4]
Material: Nelson Island granite and Haddington Island stone over steel beam construction[5]
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 Province (Vancouver), 23 April 1909 and 27 May 1911.
2 Vancouver City Archives, Additional Mss. No. 83, "Building Specifications, Vancouver Court House."
3 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1913 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1914), C-131; Province (Vancouver) 15 Feb. 1914.
4 See footnote 2.
5 British Columbia. Legislature, "Public Accounts," in, Sessional Papers, 1908 (Victoria: King's Printer, 1909), B-122.



189 Vernon Court House
3001-27th Street, Vernon, British Columbia
Constructed: 1911-14 by John Burns and Son[1]
Renovations: Interior 1919, ca. 1966[2]
Architect: Thomas Hooper[3]
Material: Okanagan granite, reinforced concrete
Use: Court house and offices
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, Marcel Durand)

1 British Columbia. Provincial Archives, Accession 75-G-65, Public Works Records, Vol. 36, file 518.
2 Ibid., Vol. 49, file 627, "Alterations to Vernon Court House, plans and specifications;" Telephone interview, Vernon government agent, 22 Dec. 1976.
3 See footnote 1.



190 Old Victoria Supreme Court House
28 Bastion Square, Victoria, British Columbia
Constructed: 1887-88[1] by Smith and Clark[2]
Renovations: Extensive renovations 1899-1901[3]
Architect: H.O. Tiedeman[4]
Material: Brick faced with concrete
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Vacant
(Canadian Inventory of Historic Building)

1 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1889 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1890), p. 105.
2 Ibid., "Public Accounts," in Sessional Papers, 1889 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1890), p. 58.
3 Colonist (Victoria), 25 June 1899.
4 British Columbia. Legislature, "Report of the Department of Public Works," in Sessional Papers, 1888 (Victoria: Queen's Printer, 1889), p. 125.

191 Court House
Front Street, Dawson City, Yukon Territory
Constructed: 1900-11[1] by day labour supervised by architect[2]
Renovations: Major interior alterations ca. 1915, ca. 1954[3]
Architects: Dominion of Canada, Department of Public Works; Thomas William Fuller, resident architect[4]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Court house
Present Use: Offices
(Parks Canada)

1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Department of Public Works Records, Vol. 1405, file 229447, T.W. Fuller to the Minister, 11 Jan. 1902.
2 Ibid., Vol. 1308, file 216125, T.W. Fuller to J.B. Charleton, 21 July 1900.
3 Ibid., Vol. 9, file 1994-2-E, chief accountant D.P.W. to Sister Mary Mark, 1 June 1950, and RG22, Records of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Vol. 46, file 264, memo from C.K. Le Capelain to W. Nason, 17 Dec. 1954; Edward F. Bush, Fort Herchmer, Dawson: Past and Present, Manuscript Report Series No. 78 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1972), p. 83.
4 See footnote 1.

192 Administration Building
Fifth Avenue, Dawson City, Yukon Territory
Constructed: 1901 by day labour supervised by architect[1]
Renovations: Interior 1910, 1922[2]
Architects: Dominion of Canada, Department of Public Works; Thomas William Fuller, resident architect[3]
Material: Wood frame
Original Use: Territorial council chambers, government offices
Present Use: Museum
(Parks Canada)

1 Canada. Public Archives, RG11, Department of Public Works Records, Vol. 1437, file 238,231, T.W. Fuller to J.I. Tarte, 11 June 1902.
2 "Enlarging the vault now," Dawson Daily News, 7 Sept. 1910, p. 4.
3 See footnote 1.

ENDNOTES

Early Court Houses of Newfoundland

1 L.E.F. English, "Fishing Admirals to Confederation." Atlantic Advocate, Vol. 13, No. 7 (July 1956), p. 5.

2 Ibid.; D.W. Prowse, History of Newfoundland from the English, Colonial and Foreign Records (London: Macmillan and Co., 1895), pp. 99, 114.

3 L.A. Anspach, History of the Island of Newfoundland and Containing a Description of the Island, the Banks, the Fisheries and Trade (London: n.p., 1819), p. 91

4 John Reeves, History of the Government of the Island of Newfoundland (London: J. Sewell, 1793), p. 7.

5 Prowse, op. cit., pp. 173, 191-92.

6 Keith Matthews, Lectures on the History of Newfoundland 1500-1830 (St. John's: Memorial University, 1973), p. 131.

7 Paul O'Neill, A Seaport Legacy - The Story of St. John's Newfoundland (Erin: Press Porcepic, 1976).

8 Prowse, op. cit., p. 255.

9 Reeves, op. cit., p. 43

10 David B. Mills, "The Evolution and Folk Architecture in Trinity Bay," in Aspects - A Publication of the Newfoundland Historical Society, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Dec. 1972), p. 19.

11 J.W. Withers, "St. John's Over a Century Ago," in When Was What, ed. H.M. Mosdell (St. John's: Robinson-Blackmore, 1974), p. 143. Article originally written in 1907.

12 Prowse, op. cit., p. 254.

13 Matthews, op. cit., p.147.

14 Ibid., p. 143

15 Reeves, op. cit., p. 98.

16 O'Neill, op. cit., p. 552.

17 Matthews, op. cit., pp. 199-200.

18 Prowse, op. cit., p. 315.

19 Reeves, op. cit., p. 145.

20 Great Britain. Parliament, The Statutes at Large, Vol. 16 (London: Charles Eyre and Andrew Strahan, 1794) (hereafter cited as Statutes), pp. 92-93.

21 Statutes, 32 Geo. III, cap. 46, pp. 236-38.

22 Prowse, op. cit., pp. 359, 654.

23 Withers, op. cit.

24 W.A. Munn, "Harbour Grace History," in Newfoundland Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Dec. 1935), pp. 27-28; William White, "Trinity," in Newfoundland Quarterly, Vol. 56, No. 1 (March 1957), p. 20.

25 Donald C. Hollett to R.R. Rostecki, 7 Sept. 1977. This information is used courtesy of Mr. Frank Pearce.

26 Great Britain. Parliament, The Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 9 (London: George Eyre and Andrew Strahan, 1824), 5 Geo. VI, cap. 67, pp. 743-50.

27 "How the Supreme Court Came into Being," Atlantic Guardian, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Jan. 1951), p. 29. In 1732 there were nine judicial districts. See Prowse, op. cit., p. 301.

28 Prowse, op. cit., pp. 424-25.

29 O'Neill, op. cit., p. 560.

30 J.M. Crook and M.H. Post, The History of the King's Works (London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1973), Vol. 6, 1782-1851, p. 631. Crook and Post thought this was the Harbour Grace building. See endnote 34, and R.R. Rostecki, The Early Court Houses of Newfoundland, Manuscript Report Series No. 312 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977), pp. 38-41.

31 Newfoundland Archives, GN2/2, Incoming Correspondence, Colonial Secretary's Office, R.A. Hay to Sir Thomas Cochrane, 20 Feb. 1828, (hereafter cited as GN2/2), p. 12; O'Neill, op. cit., p. 571.

32 GN2/2, Tucker to Cochrane, 22 June 1829, p. 64.

33 Newfoundland Archives, GN1/1/3, G13,3 (hereafter cited as GN1/1), Outward Correspondence, Colonial Secretary's Office, Letter, No. 20, 7 Aug. 1829, p. 314. Cochrane's enclosures are not appended to the letter. A copy of the letter is in St. John's; the plans may be in London.

34 Canadian Inventory of Historic Building records, transcripts of court records prepared by Mrs. G.W. Simmonds. Court records name Kough as architect on two occasions, as does the Newfoundlander

(St. John's), 29 July 1830, p. 2.

35 Newfoundland, Journals of the House of Assembly (St. John's: King's Printer) (hereafter cited as Journals), 1846, p. 79, and 1887, Appendix, p. 870.

36 Journals, 1836, Appendix. The plans were drawn in 1835.

37 Ibid., 1848-49, pp. 472-73, and 1850, Appendix, pp. 166-67.

38 Robert Saunders, Newfoundland Quarterly, Vol. 53, No. 3 (Sept. 1951), p. 42.

39 Newfoundland Archives. Board of Works Minutes, 11 June 1872, p. 129 and 30 Oct. 1872; letter appended in 1870-72 volume, colonial secretary to Major Renouf, 31 Oct. 1871. Also, "Report of J.T. Nevill," Journals, 1866, pp. 553-54, and "Board of Works Report," Journals, 1873, p. 935.

40 Journals, 1886, p. 501.

41 Journals, 1873, p. 935.

42 "Carbonear News," Evening Telegram (St. John's), 27 Sept. 1899, p. 4.

43 Journals, 1866, pp. 553-54.

44 Newfoundland, Census of Newfoundland and Labrador 1901 (St. John's: King's Printer 1903).

45 Journals, 1883, Appendix, p. 435; Journals, 1884, Appendix, p. 413.

46 See United States, A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907).

47 "Assembly," Telegram (St. John's), 8 May 1900, p. 3; "Native Granite for the New Court House," Telegram, 2 Apr. 1901, p. 4; "The New Court House," Telegram, 25 Aug. 1900, p. 4; "For the Court House," Telegram, 27 Feb. 1901, p. 4.

48 Newfoundland Archives, GN2/5, file 661, "Report on the Department of Public Works, Its Staff, Finances, Functions and Powers; December 30, 1933" (hereafter cited as "Report - 1933"), pp. 10-11.

49 Newfoundland Archives, GN2/5, Papers of the Colonial Secretary's Department, file 17-K, R. Watson to J.C. Barter, 20 Sept. 1910.

50 Newfoundland Archives, GN2/5, ibid., file 459, Churchill to W.S. Monroe, 14 July 1925.

51 "Report - 1933," loc. cit.

Early Court Houses of the Maritime Provinces

1 Frank MacKinnon, The Government of Prince Edward Island (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1974), p. 12.

2 H.J. Whalen, The Development of Local Government in New Brunswick (Fredericton?: Government of New Brunswick, 1963), p. 12; J. Murray Beck, The Government of Nova Scotia (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1957), pp. 136-37.

3 Frank MacKinnon, op. cit., p. 57.

4 C.J. Taylor, The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island, Manuscript Report Series No. 289 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977) (hereafter cited as The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island). The study of the court houses of the three Maritime provinces conducted by the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building in 1977 originally consisted of a separate report for each province. Most of the information relating to Prince Edward Island has consequently been extracted, with minor changes, from Taylor's manuscript, with his permission.

5 Patriot (Charlottetown), 3 Oct. 1872.

6 Prince Edward Island. Laws, Statutes, etc. (hereafter cited as SPEI), 36 Vic., cap. 3.

7 SPEI, 41 Vic., cap. 12.

8 SPEI, 3 Geo. IV, cap. 17, sect. 2.

9 SPEI, 4 Geo. VI, cap. 27, sect. 2.

10 SPEI, 24 Eliz. II, cap. 27.

11 J.W. Lawrence, "The First Courts and Early Judges of New Brunswick," Maritime Monthly (Jan. 1875), p. 30. This was the motto of the first judges of New Brunswick.

12 "Our St. John County Court House; its History and its Traditions," Globe (Saint John), 15 Jan. 1876, p. 3.

13 George MacBeath, "Saint John County Court House." Report on file, Research Section, Historical Resources Administration, Fredericton, 1965, p. 1; John Willet, "Nancy Mozely the First to Face Criminal Trial in an Old Court House," Globe (28 July 1925), p. 3; see also C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, Manuscript Report Series No. 290 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977) (hereafter cited as The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick), pp. 83-85 and 87-88, for

details of events leading to completion of present court house.

14 New Brunswick. Provincial Archives (hereafter cited as PANB), RG18, Quarters Sessions of the Peace of Northumberland County, 1/2, 7 Aug. 1812, p. 104.

15 For further information on early Northumberland County Court houses, see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 193-209. Only a decade after it was completed, this wooden building burned in the Great Miramichi Fire. It was replaced in 1828-29 by another wooden building which served the county until 1914, when the present Northumberland County Court House was completed. The 1828-29 building was designed by William Murray, a Scottish builder who is well known for the homes, churches and public buildings he built during the early nineteenth century in the Miramichi area. The old court house was moved from its original site in 1914 and converted into apartments. Described in 1912 as a dilapidated structure that might topple over at any time, it is ironic that although vacant, it is still standing.

16 D.J. Rankin, A History of the County of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, reprint of 1920 ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1972), p. 30; see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, Manuscript Report Series No. 293 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977) (hereafter cited as The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia), Vol. 1, pp. 136-39. Considering the relative speed, variety and convenience of modern travel, it is interesting to picture the three judges, Benton, Haliburton and Stewart, travelling on horseback by the "Gulf Shore" route to attend the first Supreme Court sittings to be held in Antigonish, in September 1816. The distance was about 140 miles.

17 W.H. Harris, "The County Jail and Court House," Pictou Advocate (29 Mar. 1951), p. 4; George Patterson, A History of the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia, reprint of 1877 ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1972), p. 216.

18 Isaiah W. Wilson, A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia, reprint of 1900 ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1972), p. 109; see also C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, Vol. 2, p. 287.

19 Nova Scotia. Public Archives (hereafter cited as PANS), Records of Township of Barrington, Proceedings of Town Meetings, 1819-24, Apr. 1823 and 27 Mar. 1826; Evelyn M. Richardson, "Barrington's Old Meeting House," originally published in Advertiser Blossom Edition (Kentville), May 1968; see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, Vol. 1, pp. 65-66.

20 "Charlottetown 30-40 years ago," Patriot (Charlottetown), 25 Dec. 1875.

21 Prince Edward Island. Public Archives (hereafter cited as PAPEI), Judge Alley-Henry Smith Collection, Isaac Smith Papers, "Specification of sundry works required for the intended public building in Charlottetown, December 31, 1839"; ibid., Legislature, Legislative Assembly, Journal of the Legislative Assemby of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1837), p. 66; ibid., 1839, pp. 71-72; ibid., 1840, p. 78; ibid., 1842, pp. 5 and 77-83; Royal Gazette (Charlottetown), 3 Sept. 1839; Colonial Herald (Charlottetown), 12 Mar. 1842. See also Mary K. Cullen, "Province House, Prince Edward Island," The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island, Manuscript Report Series No. 289 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977), pp. 57-69; ibid., A History of the Structure and Use of Province House 1837-1977, Manuscript Report Series No. 211 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977). Province House is now undergoing restoration by Parks Canada.

22 Quoted in Duncan Campbell, History of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown: Bremner Brothers, 1875), p. 97. The laying of the corner-stone occurred 16 May 1843.

23 Walter Johnstone, "Letters and travels," in Journeys to the Island of St. John or Prince Edward Island 1775-1832, ed. D.C. Harvey (Toronto: Macmillan, 1955), p. 163-64.

24 SPEI, (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1873), 13 Geo. III, caps. 3 and 8.

25 Ibid., 3 Wm IV, cap. 1.

26 Ibid., 3 Wm IV, cap. 12.

27 A.K. Morrow, Halifax, N.S., to Mary Cullen, historian, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 20 June 1975, on file.

28 John A. Mathieson, "Bench and Bar," in Past and Present of Prince Edward Island, ed. D.A. MacKinnon and A.B. Warburton (Charlottetown: Bowen, ca. 1905), p. 136.

29 PANB, REX/pa, Executive Council Records, Court Houses and Jails 1791-1853, New Brunswick, 1/1, Order in Council, "Petition of the Magistrates of York County to Executive Council, 17 Jan. 1817"; ibid., RG2, Central Executive, RS6, Executive Council Minutes, 25 Nov. 1815, p. 20; ibid., RG10, Land Petitions, No. 805, Inhabitants of Fredericton to Major-General Stacey-Smith, President and Commander-in-Chief of New Brunswick, 31 Oct. 1815; New Brunswick. University of New Brunswick Library Archives, York County Council Minutes, 1856. For further details, see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 110-18. "The County Court House," Capital (16 Sept. 1880), p. 3. Even the present York County Court House built in 1855-57 and 1858 continued the association, with the market located in the lower storey. By 1880 the local press described the second building as fit for a barrack, and the courtroom as "an ill-ventilated room, reeking with stench and offal from the lungs of men dead and gone," and "like a horse's stall." The market and the judicial process were clearly incompatible.

30 PANB, "Petition of the Magistrates and Inhabitants of St. Andrews Parying for an extension of the Gaol Limits in the Town of St. Andrews, 29 Jan. 1831." The petitioners requested the jail limits be extended so that debtors could enter the busy part of town where the stores, wharves and docks were located and where they could obtain employment. See C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 136-38 and 150. Also, PANB, REX/pa. 1/1, "Petition of the Sheriff and Magistrates of the County of Charlotte," 14 Feb. 1831; ibid., "Petition of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Charlotte," 6 Jan. 1826; ibid., Feb. 1831. While the combination building was in some ways practical, the sheriff and magistrates of the county made several petitions to the executive council for a change of site and for the separation of the jail from the court house in 1826 and 1831. In one such petition dated 14 Feb. 1831, they cited limited size and insecurity, as well as the inconvenience of the court house being in the same building.

31 Ibid., REX/pa, 1/1, 1821-40, "Return of the Gaol and of the Number of Prisoners confined therein during the year ending on the 31st day of December 1836 in the Colony of New Brunswick and County of Kings County."

32 C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, Vol. I, p. 80.

33 Ibid., pp. 159-60; Harriet Cunningham Hart, History of the County of Guysborough, Nova Scotia (Belleville: Mika, 1975), p. 90. The old court house now serves as a museum.

34 C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, pp. 95-108; W.H. Harris, op. cit. The old building is still standing and is now used for town offices. With the exception of some parts of the basement jail section, the interior has been extensively renovated. For little more than a quarter of its life the building functioned as a court house and jail.

35 C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, p. 135.

36 Joseph Howe, "Eastern Rambles," Novascotian (Halifax), 22 June 1832, p. 198.

37 New Brunswick. Legislature. House of Assembly, "An Act to provide for the safe keeping of County Records," in Acts of the General Assembly of New Brunswick (Fredericton: John Simpson, 1838), pp. 656-57. While no similar legislation concerning the construction of registry offices appears to have been passed by the Nova Scotia legislature, it may have been part of a larger, less specifically titled act.

38 PANB, REX/pa, 1/3, "Petition of Thomas Berry," 1842.

39 Ibid.; see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 138-40, for details of Berry's plight.

40 Interview, Mr. Joe Chisolm, grandson of Alexander McDonald, by Judy Boss, his-

torical researcher, June 1977, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. These include the Queens Hotel built ca. 1835 and St. James Church erected ca. 1860, both in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and a church in Arichat, Nova Scotia. Chisolm relates that while McDonald was working on the Arichat court house, he lived with his family in the jailer's quarters on the ground floor and that it was here that his wife gave birth to their third child.

41 Ibid., see C.H. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, pp. 135-44; ibid., pp. 49-62; ibid., pp. 145-56. The St. Mary's District Court House has been restored and is part of the Sherbrooke Village project, consisting of a group of restored nineteenth century buildings including a store, school, jail, post office, tailor shop, churches and others. Like other buildings in the historic village, the court house continues to function in its original capacity.

42 South Shore; Seasoned Timbers (Halifax: Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, 1974), Vol. 2, p. 100; see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, Vol. 2, pp. 233-36, for further details on builder and architect (a carpenter).

43 PANS, RG34-319, J10, Committee Report on the Site for the Court House, May 1853; C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, pp. 231-45.

44 Prince Edward Island. House of Assembly. Debates (Charlottetown: Queen's Printer, 1878), p. 127. C.J. Taylor, The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island, pp. 43-48. This building no longer serves its original function; it has been moved and is now used as an agricultural exhibition centre. See also C.J. Taylor, op. cit., pp. 49-51. This court house was acquired by the Dundas Farm Museum and moved from its original site. Like the Abrams Village building it is used for agricultural exhibitions.

45 Ibid., p. 129.

46 "Souris - In the evening, a grand musical and literary entertainment under the superintendent of Mr. Wm Mellett was held in the Court House," Patriot (Charlottetown), 12 Oct. 1887.

47 W.H. Harris, op. cit. For architectural description and conditions, see C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, pp. 96-100.

48 T. Ritchie, "The Architecture of William Thomas," Architecture Canada, Vol. 44, No. 5 (May 1977), p. 44. Thomas designed many buildings in central Canadian communities, in particular, Guelph, Cobourg, Toronto and London, Ontario. A small selection includes the Commercial Bank Building located on 15 Wellington Street West erected in 1842, St. Michael's Cathedral and Palace built in 1848, and St. Lawrence Hall, all in Toronto; Cobourg's town hall, the General Brock Monument at Queenston Heights, near Niagara Falls, designed in 1853; the Quebec Customs House (1856-60); and Guelph City Hall (1856). After emigrating from England, Thomas set up a business in Toronto in the 1840s. Later he expanded his business under the name of W. Thomas & Sons, with a branch office in Halifax, ca. 1858-63, under the management of his son C.P. Thomas.

49 The Halifax, N.S. Business Directory, for 1863, comp. Luke Hutchison (Halifax: Luke Hutchinson, 1863), p. 146. These include the Province Building, Dalhousie College, various bank buildings, insurance offices and mercantile houses.

50 PANB, MYO, E, Bessie White scrapbook, Newspaper clipping: "The Fredericton City Hall." This scrapbook contains undated newspaper clippings, the bulk of which appear to have been taken from the Saint John Daily Telegraph, 1876-77. See C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 113-19.

51 "Death of R.C. John Dunn," Miramichi Advance (Chatham), 10 Apr. 1903, p. 3; Daily Telegraph (Saint John), 16 Aug. 1877, p. 2; ibid., 11 Dec. 1877, p. 2; ibid., 5 July 1877, p. 2; ibid., 17 July 1877, p. 2; ibid., 16 May 1878, p. 2; ibid., 3 June 1878, p. 2. Some of the buildings designed by Dunn include a drill shed and armouries on Barracks Square built in Saint John in 1878, the Departmental Building in Fredericton built in 1888 and a public school building in Chatham completed ca. 1903, all in New Brunswick.

52 "Prominent architect dies at 96 years," Mail-Star (Halifax), 14 Aug. 1971, p. 4; H.B. Jefferson, "Leslie R. Fairn,

F.R.A.I.C., F.R.S.A., The Distinguished Pioneer Architect of the Atlantic Provinces," Maritime Advocate and Busy East, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Dec. 1953), pp. 5-23, 25, 27, 29-31, 33. Leslie Raymond Fairn was born in Waterville, Nova Scotia, in 1875. After attending Acadia University in Wolfville, he apprenticed in architecture with Edward Elliott, the architect of the present Halifax City Hall. Fairn opened his first practice in Aylesford, Nova Scotia, when he was 28. The Kings County Court House in Kentville was one of this firm's first commissions. The contractors for the building were the prominent Amherst building firm of Rhodes, Curry & Company, with whom Fairn had gained practical building experience during his college years. Fairn was later joined in the business by his son. Among the many buildings designed by this prolific family firm are the Acadia Administration Building; the Monastery of the Good Shepherd in Halifax; the county court house in Yarmouth (built after 1914); Brunswick Street United Church, Truro; Highfield Street Baptist Church, Moncton; Presbyterian churches in Springhill and Windsor; and United churches in New Glasgow and Dartmouth, to cite only a small fraction of the firm's buildings in Nova Scotia. Fairn's son was a charter member and later president of the Maritime Association of Architects, and in 1937 he became the first architect in the Atlantic provinces to be elected fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. See C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia, pp. 285-307; ibid., 79-92; C.A. Hale, The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick, pp. 173-91.

53 SPEI, 36 Vic., cap. 27. See C.J. Taylor, The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island, pp. 83-102.

54 See C.J. Taylor, op. cit., pp. 25-47; Robert C. Tuck, Gothic Dreams (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1978). Published after this study was completed, Tuck's book offers a great deal of information on Harris's life and works. Harris did most of his work in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island between the 1870s and 1912, including a brief and less successful stint in Winnipeg in 1882-83. Harris received his training in architecture as an apprentice to architect David Sterling in Halifax in the early 1870s. Among the buildings he designed are the Georgetown "Town Hall" (ca. 1898); St. Paul's Anglican church (1895), Charlottetown; St. Mary's Church, Indian River, all in Prince Edward Island. He also designed many buildings in Nova Scotia, including the Maritime Business College in Halifax (1906); Bank of Nova Scotia in Digby (built in 1890 and demolished ca. 1970); and Collège Ste-Anne in Church Point (1899). Harris designed a wide variety of churches and residences in both provinces. The present home of the Heritage Foundation of P.E.I., "Beraconfield," is a residence designed by Harris in 1877. All Saints' Church in Clifton Royal, New Brunswick, built in 1884 was also designed by him. A very interesting example of the architect's work is All Souls' Chapel at St. Peters Cathedral, Charlottetown, which he designed in 1888. His brother, the well-known Canadian artist Robert Harris, collaborated on this project as muralist. In the collection of the latter's work are several paintings of the architect sketching as a boy and later, preparing building plans - rare and intimate glimpses of a nineteenth century architect in this country.

55 T.C. Haliburton, "How Many Fins has a Cod?", The Old Judge, reprint of 1849 ed. (Toronto: Clarke, Irwin, 1968), p. 10.

56 PANS, "Halifax and Districts of Nova Scotia," Scrapbook No. 43, "Recollections of the Old Amherst Court House" by Sir Charles Townshend, p. 106. (Note in margin indicates that this article was taken from the Enterprise, 11 Jan. 1919); "Our St. John County Court House; Its History and Traditions," Globe (Saint John), 15 Jan. 1876, p. 3.

57 George Patterson, A History of the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia, reprint of 1877 ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1972), p. 221.

58 A.W.H. Eaton, The History of Kings County, reprint of 1910 ed. (Belleville: Mika, 1972), pp. 1, 24.

59 Ibid.

60 R. Baden Powell, Second Scrap Book (Digby: Wallace Print, 1973), p. 67.

Early Court Houses of Quebec

1 John George Bourinot, How Canada is Governed: a Short Account of its Executive, Legislative, Judicial and Municipal Institutions with an Historical Outline of their Origin and Development (Toronto: Copp, 1895), p. 179.
2 Ibid., pp. 179-80; this amount was increased to $100. and later $200.
3 Canada. Department of Public Works, General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30 June 1867 (Ottawa: Hunter, Rose & Co., 1898) (hereafter cited as Canada. General Report).
4 Edwin M. Green, Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture, ed. Talbot Hamlin (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952), Vol. 3, p. 816.
5 Canada. Public Archives (hereafter cited as PAC), RG11, E-15A, vols. 282-84.
6 Canada (Province). Les Actes et Ordonnances revisés du Bas-Canada (Quebec: Stewart Derbishire and Georges Desbarats, 1845) (hereafter cited as Canada. Les Actes et Ordonnances), p. 450-51.
7 Ibid., p. 449.
8 Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario. Manuscript Report Series No. 295, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1978.
9 Canada. General Report.
10 Canada. Les Actes et Ordonnances, p. 132.
11 PAC, RG11, vol. 112, p. 8.
12 Jean-Claude Marsan, Montréal en évolution. Historique du développement de l'architecture et de l'environnement montréalais (Montreal: Fides, 1974) (hereafter cited as Montréal, p. 211).
13 Ibid.
14 Canada. General Report.
15 Recapitulation by Districts and Counties of the Enumeration of the Inhabitants of Lower Canada and of the other Statistical Information Obtained in the Year 1844 (Montreal: Stewart Derbishire and Georges Desbarats, 1846).
16 Canada. General Report.
17 Louis-P. Turcotte, Le Canada sous l'Union 1841-1867 (Quebec: Des Presses Mécaniques du Canadien, 1871), p. 148.
18 Canada. Les Actes et Ordonnances, pp. 198-201.
19 Ibid., pp. 438-40.
20 Louis-P. Turcotte, loc. cit.
21 Canada. General Report.
22 PAC, RG11, Vol. 136, No. 32.
23 Canada. Les Actes et Ordonnances, p. 201.
24 PAC, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.
25 PAC, RG11, Vol. 136, No. 32.
26 PAC, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.
27 Canada (Province). Department of Public Works, Specification for District Court Houses and Jails in Lower Canada (Quebec: Queen's Printer, 1860).
28 PAC, RG11, Vol. 32, No. 36611.
29 Canada. General Report.
30 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
32 PAC, RG11, Vol. 282, file No. 504431.
33 Canada. General Report.
34 Ibid.
35 Louis-Arthur Audette and T.W.S. Dunn, comps., Almanach judiciaire de la province de Québec (Quebec: N.p., 1888), pp. 15-18.
36 Gérard Morisset, L'architecture en Nouvelle-France (Quebec: Charrier and Dugal, 1949), p. 132.
37 Jean-Claude Marsan, Montréal, p. 239.
38 Ted Mills and Janet Wright, "Victoria City Hall, Centennial Square, Victoria, British Columbia." Manuscript on file, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977, p. 295.
39 Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics et du Travail, Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics et du Travail de la province de Québec (Quebec: King's Printer), 1905/1906-1915/16.

40 At Roberval and Nicolet, independent architects drew up the plans for the court house and jail. In both cases, the government agreed, as a result of political pressure, to establish a judicial district, provided the authorities built the court house at their expense.

41 Pierre-Georges Roy, Les juges de la province de Québec (Quebec: R. Paradis, 1933), p. 20.

Early Court Houses of Ontario

1 James H. Coyne in The Court Houses of a Century, Kenneth W. McKay, comp. (St. Thomas: Times Printing Company, 1901), p. 4.

2 For the history of judicial districts in Upper Canada before 1850, see J.H. Aitchison, "The Development of Local Government in Upper Canada 1783-1850." Ph.D. thesis, Univ. of Toronto, 1953, Chap. 1.

3 Ibid.; the act providing for the construction of court houses is 32 Geo. III, cap. 7, "An Act for Building a Gaol and Court House in Every District...."

4 Aitchison, op. cit., p. 620.

5 Ibid., Chap. 34.

6 George W. Spragge, "The Districts of Upper Canada 1788-1849," Ontario History, Vol. 39 (1947), pp. 91-100.

7 The case is examined in greater detail later - Journals of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, 1831 (York [Toronto]: Robert Stanton, 1832), Appendices, pp. 97-105.

8 Canada. Public Archives (hereafter cited as PAC), MG9, D8-21, Vol. 2, General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, District of Lunenburg, 1789-1802. The first court house in the London District constructed in 1803 was similar. It was a frame building on an oak log foundation, two storeys high, measuring forty by twenty-six feet. A full description is given in the Minutes of the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the London District 1800-1809, meeting of 4 Oct. 1803, reprinted in the Twenty-Second Report of the Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario (Toronto: Herbert H. Ball, 1934), p. 50.

9 Charles M. Johnson, The Head of the Lake: A History of Wentworth County (Hamilton: County Council, 1958), pp. 56-57 and 154-155. The plans for the second Gore District Court House and Jail are in Public Archives Canada, RG5, A1, Correspondence of the Civil Secretary ("Upper Canada Sundries") (hereafter cited as Upper Canada Sundries), p. 128,930.

10 On these buildings, see Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, Manuscript Report Series No. 195 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1978) (hereafter cited as The Early Court Houses of Ontario), Vol. 3, pp. 455-64 and 527-38.

11 Plans for the original court house and jail at L'Orignal are in Upper Canada Sundries, pp. 127,544 and 128,552. The course of the controversy may be followed in the Court Records, General Quarter Sessions of the Ottawa District 1816-23 in the Archives of Ontario, RG23, Series 7. The minutes are, unfortunately, unclear concerning the name of the architect. On 15 April 1824 the magistrates paid William Moody ten shillings for drawing plans of the jail and court house, under the direction of the court. Moody, a local man, is otherwise unknown and may have only drafted the plans, not provided the design. Local tradition, on the other hand, attributes the building to William or Charles Lundrum of nearby Riceville. William Lundrum was a contractor who authored the major renovations to the building in 1848 and 1861. See Lucien Brault, Histoire des Comtés Unis de Prescott et de Russell (L'Orignal: Conseil des Comtés Unis, 1965), pp. 80 and 230.

12 Hallowell Free Press (Hallowell, now Picton), 13 Mar. 1832, p. 1 and 28 Feb. 1832, p. 4.

13 Fraser's authorship of the plans for the court house at Cornwall is noted in the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Eastern District 1831-32, reprinted in the Journals of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, 1834-35, Appendix 67 (York [Toronto]: Robert Stanton, 1835), pp. 2-3. See also PAC, MG9, D8-8, Eastern District, Minutes of Quarter Sessions of the Peace. A plan, unsigned and dated ca. 1850, is in the Archives of Ontario, Picture Collection. Secondary works include John Harkness, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry: A History (Oshawa: Mundy-Goodfellow, 1946) and J.F. Pringle, Lunenburg or the Old Eastern District (Cornwall: Standard Printing, 1890).

14 Ian Wilson and J.D. Stewart, eds. Heritage Kingston (Kingston: Queen's University, 1973), pp. 97-98 and 115. The remarks of Chief Justice Campbell were

reported in the Kingston Chronicle, 8 Sept. 1826, p. 1. The plan, signed by Rogers and dated 1839, is in Upper Canada Sundries, op. cit., p. 128,863. I am grateful to Professor J. Douglas Stewart for the attribution to Rogers. Unfortunately, the minutes of quarter sessions for this period are missing.

15 The course of the competition, and its aftermath, are discussed at length in the evidence presented to the Select Committee of the House of Assembly appointed to examine complaints against the magistrates of the Newcastle District, reprinted in the Journals of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, 1831 (York [Toronto]: Robert Stanton, 1832), Appendices pp. 97-105. The plans prepared by both Fraser and Chewitt are in the Archives of Ontario, Picture Collection.

16 Douglas Richardson, Ontario Towns (Toronto: Oberon, 1976), unpaginated; Leslie Maitland and Dana Johnson, "Osgoode Hall and the Development of Public Architecture in Canada," unpublished manuscript (hereafter cited as "Osgoode Hall").

17 Further information on these buildings is contained in Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario.

18 The literature on Osgoode Hall is extensive. On the initial building, see D.B. Read, Lives of the Judges of Upper Canada and Ontario from 1791 to the Present Time (Toronto, 1888), pp. 435-49. Plans for the 1855-57 reconstruction are in the Archives of Ontario, J.C.B. and E.C. Horwood Collection of Architectural Drawings under the architects Cumberland and Storm and Hopkins, Lawford and Nelson. See also Maitland and Johnson, "Osgoode Hall."

19 Plans for Ewart's building are in Upper Canada Sundries, op. cit., pp. 128,742-45. See also Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, pp. 163-77.

20 Anna Brownell Jameson, Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada, Clara Thomas, ed. (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963), p. 83.

21 On the court house at Brockville, see Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, Vol. 1, pp. 179-92.

22 Ibid., Vol. 1, pp. 193-208.

23 Ibid., Vol. 2, pp. 249-59; Vol. 2, pp. 309-17 and 337-51.

24 Plans for the York County Court House are in the Archives of Ontario, J.C.B. and E.C. Horwood Collection of Architectural Drawings under the name of Cumberland and Ridout. The quotation is from Archives of Ontario, Minutes of the Municipal Council of the United Counties of York, Ontario and Peel, First Meeting, 1852, p. 38.

25 Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, Vol. 2, pp. 261-70. See also J.P. Stokes, "The Preservation of Victoria Hall," in Victorian Cobourg, J. Petryshyn, ed. (Belleville: Mika Publishing Company, 1976), pp. 28-53.

26 Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, Vol. 1, pp. 53-77.

27 Report of the Department of Public Works for the Province of Ontario for 1871 (Toronto, 1873) p. 27.

28 Kelly Crossman, The Early Court Houses of Ontario, Vol. 3, pp. 475-86.

29 Ibid., Vol. 3, pp. 517-26, 561-70 and 571-83; Vol. 2, pp. 271-80.

30 Ibid., Vol. 3, pp. 507-15 and 595-606.

31 Windsor Herald, 26 May 1855, p. 2.

32 City of Toronto Archives, Toronto City Council Minutes for 1899, Appendix C, "Address Delivered by His Worship the Mayor, John Shaw, Esq. Upon the Occasion of the Opening of the New City Buildings, September 18th 1899."

Early Court Houses of the Old Territorial North West and the Prairie Provinces

1 For a detailed examination of preliminary administration of justice by the Hudson's Bay Company, see Alexander Ross, The Red River Settlement (Minneapolis: Ross and Haines, 1957); also Donald Gunn and Charles R. Tuttle, History of Manitoba (Ottawa: Maclean, Roger and Co., 1880), pp. 287-88.

2 James C. Jackson, The Centennial History of Manitoba (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1970), pp. 67-68.

3 Dale and Lee Gibson, Substantial Justice: Law and Lawyers in Manitoba, 1670-1970 (Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1972), pp. 23-24.

4 Ibid., pp. 32-33.

5 William L. Morton, Manitoba: A History

(Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1967), pp. 77-78.

6 Jackson, op. cit., p. 77.

7 Gibson, op. cit., p. 24.

8 Gunn and Tuttle, pp. 303-5, p. 381.

9 Gibson, op. cit., p. 32.

10 Lewis H. Thomas, The Struggle for Responsible Government in the North-West Territories 1870-97 (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1956) (hereafter cited as The Struggle for Responsible Government), pp. 31-32.

11 Canada. Parliament, Statutes of Canada, 1873 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1874), "An Act to make further provision for the Government of the Northwest Territories, 23 May 1873," cap. 34.

12 R.C. Macleod, The Northwest Mounted Police and Law Enforcement, 1873-1905 (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1976), p. 5.

13 R.C. Macleod, "The Problem of Law and Order in the Canadian West, 1870-1905," in The Prairie West to 1905, ed. L.H. Thomas (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1975), pp. 136-37.

14 Ibid.

15 Lewis H. Thomas, The Struggle for Responsible Government, p. 111.

16 Canada. Parliament, Statutes of Canada, 1886 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1887), "An Act to further amend the law respecting the Northwest Territories, 2 June 1886," cap. 25.

17 The office of court clerk was usually combined with other duties such as postmaster; sheriffs' duties continued to be performed by the NWMP.

18 Canada. Sessional Papers, "Report of the Minister of Public Works (hereafter cited as Canada, Public Works Report), 1878, p. 54.

19 Canada, Public Works Report, 1885, p. 59.

20 Canada, Public Works Report, 1887, p. 107; also 1890, pp. 39-40.

21 Canada, Public Works Report, 1894, p. 43. Contract let to Charles Willoughby, 1893; building was demolished, apparently during the early 1900s.

22 John A. Bovey, "Attitudes and Policies of the Federal Government Towards Canada's Northern Territories: 1870-1930" (M.A. thesis, Univ. of British Columbia, 1967), pp. 89-99.

23 Canada. North West Mounted Police, Annual Report, 1898 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1899), Appendices H and L, No. 15-1899.

24 Canada. Privy Council, "Regulations Governing Placer Mining in the Provisional Districts of the Yukon and Northwest Territories," order in council, 18 Jan. 1898.

25 Canada. Public Archives (hereafter cited as PAC), Records of the Department of Public Works, RG11, Vol. 1361, file 220314, J.H. MacArthur to Judge Dugas, various dates.

26 PAC, RG11, Vol. 1308, file 216125, T. Fuller to J.B. Charleson, 21 July 1900; Vol. 1309, file 216332, Fuller to Charleson, 3 Aug. 1900; Vol. 1307, file 215902, Fuller to Charleson, 15 July 1900. This decision was made initially for the construction of the post office (1900-1901); however, the policy was continued.

27 PAC, RG11, Vol. 1437, file 238231, Fuller to Minister of Public Works, 11 Jan. 1902.

28 PAC, RG11, Vol. 1294, file 205265, Fuller to Ewart, ca. 27 Sept. 1899.

29 PAC, RG11, Vol. 1380, file 223876, T.W. Fuller to Ewart, chief architect, Ottawa, 19 Feb. 1901.

30 PAC, RG91, Vol. 38, file 2643, M-2855, E.L. Newcombe to Deputy Minister of Justice A. Henderson, 8 April 1910.

31 Historian Margaret Archibald noted that the description of the room in "Dawson Public Buildings," Dawson Daily News, Golden Clean-Up Edition, 9 March 1902, p. 69 closely coincided with Victoria Faulkner's (Dawson) description of the room's condition in 1918 obtained in an interview in June 1976, as well as her own examination of the building in 1976. See Margaret Archibald, "Administration Building, Dawson City," in The Early Court Houses of the Yukon (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1977), p. 69.

32 Bovey, op. cit., p. 121.

33 Canada. Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Report, 1920 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1921), p. 15.

34 Ibid.

35 Canada. Laws, Statutes, etc., Revised

Statutes, 1927 (Ottawa: King's Printer 1927) (hereafter cited as RSC), cap. 142, sect. 34.

36 Canada. Department of Mines and Resources, Canada's Western Northland, its history, resources, population and administration, assembled by W.C. Bethune (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1937), p. 11.

37 Ibid.

38 Canada. Department of the Interior, Report, 1930 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1931), p. 154.

39 Department of Public Works, Report, 1950 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1951), "Report of the Chief Engineer 1949-50," p. 85.

40 Gibson, op. cit., pp. 69-70.

41 Ibid., p. 80.

42 Ibid., p. 103.

43 Manitoba, Statutes, 1883 (Winnipeg: Rice M. Howard, 1883), 46-47 Vic., cap. 1, Part 3, pp. 162-63.

44 Alexander Begg and Walter R. Nursey, Ten Years in Winnipeg (Winnipeg: Times Print, 1879), p. 23. Site and building purchased in October 1870 from J. Sutherland for £100. A Comparative Statement of the Public Expenditure (Winnipeg: Manitoba Daily Free Press Steam Print, 1878), p. 48.

45 Manitoba, Report of the Department of Public Works on 30 June 1874 (Winnipeg: Nor-Wester Printing Co., 1875), pp. 11-19. Until December 1873 the Manitoba legislature was located in a house near the new court house. After a major fire that month, the legislature moved to the court house where it remained until the sale of the structure in 1881.

46 Begg and Nursey, op. cit., pp. 90-91.

47 Two of these survive beneath the present structure erected in 1884 using the court house foundations. The jail was considered obsolete by the early 1880s.

48 "The New Court House and Jail," Manitoban (Winnipeg), 27 Sept. 1873, p. 21.

49 For example, see Manitoba, Public Accounts for 1873 (Winnipeg: Nor-Wester Print, 1874), pp. 13-14.

50 Manitoba, Public Accounts for 1880 (Winnipeg: Queen's Printer, 1881), p. 23.

51 "The County Buildings," Winnipeg Weekly Times (Winnipeg), 26 Dec. 1879, p. 3. According to the Weekly Free Press, 17 Jan. 1880, p. 6, the contracting firm of Charles Lynes and William Green received the job with a bid of $9,600. Lynes was also appointed inspector of works. Clearly, Lynes was a master builder. By 1886 Henderson's Northwest Directory places Lynes at Crystal City, probably as a farmer.

52 Ibid. In Lynes's original plans the jail was outside the main building, where the incarcerated could communicate with members of the outside world.

53 Manitoba, "Report of the Department of Municipal Commissioner," in Sessional Papers, No. 18 (Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1910), 9 Edward VII, 1909, p. 758.

54 "Emerson," Weekly Free Press, 15 July 1881, p. 7.

55 The crest remained in place until the building burned down 1 April 1957.

56 Enlarged about 1910, the Eastern Judicial Jail now stands as the Vaughan Street Detention Home. It is the oldest jail still in use in Manitoba.

57 "The Court House Board," Weekly Mail (Brandon), 20 March 1884, p. 6. By 1910 it had become the Provincial Jail, its current use.

58 Their bid apparently received some financial encouragement from the Central Judicial District Board. See editorial, Canadian (Neepawa), 12 June 1884.

59 Canadian (Neepawa), 5 March 1885, p. 3.

60 Gibson, op. cit., p. 180.

61 "New Local Buildings," Weekly Nor-Wester (Winnipeg), 27 Dec. 1894, p. 13.

62 One window survived the demolition of 1964-65 and is now situated in the Faculty of Law Building, University of Manitoba. Its central figure is that of Blind Justice.

63 Manitoba, Annual Report of the Government Inspector, 1892 (Winnipeg: Queen's Printer 1893), p. 13.

64 Morden was built by Morden builder T.T. Thomson; "The Judicial Buildings," Empire (Morden), 30 June 1904, p. 6. Brandon was built by the Brandon Construction Company; "New Court House a Splendid Building," Brandon Weekly Sun (Brandon), 8 Sept. 1910, p. 1. The Minnedosa building is an exception; perhaps

because local contractors were not available the contract was given to Charles Jeffrey of Portage la Prairie; Mercury (Minnedosa), 2 July 1908.

65 Brandon architect W.A. Elliott. See Manitoba, "Public Works Annual Report," in Sessional Papers No. 29, 10 Edward VII, 1910, p. 144.

66 "New Court House Splendid Building," Brandon Weekly Sun (Brandon), 8 Sept. 1910, pp. 1 and 7.

67 The differences in the styles of the two men is evident in the various buildings at the Manitoba Agricultural College (now the University of Manitoba). Hooper was responsible for the design of the eclectic Taché Hall, while Horwood, a year later, designed the Georgian Revival Administration Building.

68 The Land Titles, of course, was an earlier Hooper creation, though its classicism, like Hooper's Carnegie Library, is wedded to a simple mass and shape.

69 "Made in Canada Furniture Not Good Enough," Telegram (Winnipeg), 25 Aug. 1916, p. 1.

70 "Rapid Progress on the New Law Court," Manitoba Free Press (Winnipeg), 22 Nov. 1913, p. 15; also, Manitoba, Sessional Papers, No. 10: "Report of Provincial Architect," 5 Geo. V, 1915, p. 468.

71 "Tenders for Public Building," Herald (Dauphin), 29 June 1916, p. 4.

72 Journal (Emerson), 1 March 1918, p. 1.

73 This may have been a common feature of low-cost buildings of the era, the burlap intended to simulate the costlier rough-textured wallpaper then available.

74 Saskatchewan, Statutes, (Regina: Government Printer, 1907), 7 Edward VII, 1907, cap. 8, p. 58; Alberta, Statutes, 1907 (Edmonton: Government Printer, 1907), "Supreme Court Act," 11 Feb. 1907, cap. 3.

75 The initial Saskatchewan judicial districts were Cannington, Moosomin, Yorkton, Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Battleford. The five Alberta ones were Lethbridge, MacLeod, Calgary, Edmonton and Wetaskiwin.

76 Construction Magazine (Toronto: H. Gagnier Ltd., 1908), Vol. 1, No. 11, pp. 47-48.

77 "The Work of the Departments," in Public Service Monthly (Regina: Government Printer, 1912), (hereafter cited as PSM), Vol. 1, No. 5, Dec. 1912, p. 3.

78 Saskatchewan, Public Accounts 1907-08. (Regina: Government Printer, 1908) (hereafter cited as Public Accounts), p. 97.

79 Ibid.

80 Public Acccunts, pp. 97-98; Public Accounts, 1908-09, p. 110.

81 Saskatchewan Archives. Department of Public Works Collection - File 137P Arcola Court House, Deputy Commissioner to Darling and Pearson, 23 Aug. 1907; DPW file 138, Battleford Court House, F.J. Robinson to Darling and Pearson, 9 May 1907.

82 B.M. Greene, ed., Who's Who and Why 1919-20 (Vancouver: International Press, 1920), p. 1022.

83 Ibid., p. 400.

84 C.W. Parker, ed., Who's Who and Why - 1913 (Vancouver: International Press, 1913), p. 781. Storey died in 1914. See also Sir Charles G.D. Roberts and Arthur Leonard Tunnell, eds., The Canadian Who's Who, 1936-37 (Toronto: Trans Canada Press, 1936), p. 1094. Van Egmond died about 1956.

85 Norman F. Black, History of Saskatchewan and the North-West Territories (Regina: The Saskatchewan Historical Co., 1913), pp. 312-13.

86 The break appears to have come during 1912 when a former government architect, Ernest Brown, gained the design contract for the Moosomin Land Titles Building. See Saskatchewan, Report of the Department of Public Works, 1912-13 (Regina: King's Printer, 1913) (hereafter cited as DPW Report), p. 86.

87 C.W. Parker, loc. cit.

88 PSM, "Directory of Government Officials," Vol. 1, No. 7, Feb. 1913, p. 48. Philbrick began his career as a surveyor in Capetown, South Africa. He took part in the Jameson Raid, serving later in the South African mounted police. Journeying back to England he went into contracting with his father, before coming to Alberta. About 1910 he joined the Saskatchewan Department of Public Works and subsequently supervised the building of the asylum at Battleford

(PSM, Vol. 1, No. 8, Mar. 1913, p. 3). Around March 1915, Philbrick volunteered for active service in the war (PSM, Vol. 3, No. 9, April 1915, p. 244) and died in battle ca. 1916 (PSM, Vol. 5, No. 3, Oct. 1916, p. 47).

89 PSM, "The Work of the Departments," Vol. 3, No. 1, Aug. 1914, p. 3.

90 PSM, "The Building Program Altered," Vol. 3, No. 2, Sept. 1914, pp. 32-33.

91 PSM, "Directory of Officials," Vol. 4, No. 1, Aug. 1915, p. 28. Little is known about Sharon. During 1911, he was in partnership in Regina with Neil R. Darrach, formerly of St. Thomas, Ontario (Dominion of Canada Gazetter and Classified Business Directory, 1912, p. 1242). However, by July 1912 this partnership had ended and Sharon had gone on his own (Henderson's Regina City Directory, 1912). He retired from his public position about 1928-29. He was also president of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects in 1927 (PSM, Vol. 15, No. 4, Nov. 1926, p. 8).

92 DPW Report 1928-29, p. 30.

93 Talbot Hamlin, Architecture Through the Ages (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1953), p. 613.

94 DPW Report 1931-32, pp. 7-8.

95 DPW Report 1934-35, p. 27.

96 Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Biographical File, No. 111.

97 Alberta, "Department of Public Works Return Respecting Expenditures on Public Buildings," in Journals of the Alberta Legislature (Alberta: Government Printer, 1915), Vol. 11 (1915), "Accounts and Papers," No. 45.

98 Rented facilities had been extensively employed in previous years for district court sittings at subjudicial centres. See, for example, Alberta, Sessional Papers, 1910, No. 2, "Public Accounts," p. 31, listing Vermilion, Taber, Innisfail and Lethbridge.

99 Alberta. Sessional Papers, 1914, "Public Accounts," p. 190. Alterations were carried out by day labour under the supervision of DPW officials.

100 Alberta Provincial Archives, Acc. No. 76-123, 21 Jan. 1910.

101 Alberta Star (Cardston), 19 July 1907, p. 2.

102 Alberta, Annual Report of the Department of Public Works, 1913 (Edmonton: Government Printer, 1914), p. 34.

103 R. Cunniffe, Calgary in Sandstone (Calgary: Historical Society of Alberta, 1969), p. 10.

Early Court Houses of British Columbia

1 F.W. Howay, "Bench and Bar," British Columbia, from the Earliest Times to the Present, F.W. Howay and E.O.S. Scholefield, eds. (Vancouver: S.J. Clarke, Pub., 1914), Vol. 2, p. 653; also Walter N. Sage, Sir James Douglas and British Columbia (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1930), pp. 178-80.

2 David M.L. Farr, The Organization of the Judicial System of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1849-1871 (unpublished B.A. essay, Univ. of British Columbia, 1944), p. 14.

3 Ibid., pp. 32-34.

4 Peter Fourie Palmer, A Fiscal History of British Columbia in the Colonial Period (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Stanford University, 1932), pp. 181-82. Douglas secured a loan of twenty-seven thousand dollars from the Hudson's Bay Company to finance construction when opposition in the legislature blocked the appropriation of colonial funds for the project.

5 British Colonist (Victoria), 22 Jan. 1864.

6 Gazette (Victoria), 5 April 1859.

7 British Columbia. Public Archives (hereafter cited as BCPA), Nanaimo Court Houses vertical file.

8 British Columbia. Parliament, The Laws of British Columbia, Consisting of the Acts, Ordinances and Proclamations of the formerly separate Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and of the United Colony of British Columbia (Victoria, 1871) (hereafter cited as Laws of British Columbia) cap. 141, pp. 101-2.

9 Advocate (Vancouver), Vol. 29, Pt. 2 (Feb.-March 1971), cover story.

10 British Columbian (New Westminster), 6 May 1865.

11 Sydney G. Pettit, "Judge Begbie in Action: The Establishment of Law and Preservation of Order in British Columbia," British Columbia Historical Quarterly (hereafter cited as BCHQ), Vol. 11, No. 2 (April 1947), p. 142.

12 For assessments of English influences upon administrative and court apparatus in British Columbia, see Walter N. Sage, "British Columbia Becomes Canadian, 1871-1901," in Historical Essays on British Columbia, J. Friesen and H.K. Ralston, eds. (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1976) (hereafter cited as Historical Essays), p. 60 and Margaret A. Ormsby, "Canada and the New British Columbia," ibid., p. 99.

13 BCPA, Begbie Papers, Vol. 22, No. 4, p. 26.

14 Laws of British Columbia, cap. 146.

15 David M.L. Farr, op. cit., p. 71.

16 Isobel Bescoby, "A Colonial Administration: An Analysis of Administration in British Columbia, 1869-71," in Historical Essays, p. 133.

17 S.G. Pettit, "His Honour's Honour: Judge Begbie and the Cottonwood Scandal," BCHQ, Vol. 11, No. 3 (June 1947), p. 208. The problem of accommodation was not confined to gold commissioners; Begbie became embroiled in a controversy when he attempted to obtain a twenty-acre pre-emption on which to build a residence and barns for his pack horses in the Cariboo. The judge attributed arthritic problems to exposure to cold while sleeping in tents in his circuits.

18 Laws of British Columbia, cap. 256.

19 David M.L. Farr, op. cit., p. 114.

20 Mainland British Columbia had accrued a deficit of $1,389,830 by 1865, largely through construction of the Cariboo Road. Works and building budgets during ensuing years were continuously slashed: in 1867 the sum was reduced from $29,350 to $11,400 out of a total annual expenditure of $555,000, and the 1868 and 1869 budgets continued this policy (P.F. Palmer, op. cit., pp. 299-300, 322, 336).

21 Advocate (Vancouver), Feb.-March 1970.

22 British Columbia, Laws and Statutes (hereafter cited as Laws and Statutes) (Victoria: Wolfenden, 1872), "An Act for the Better Administration of Justice in British Columbia," No. 24, pp. 69-70.

23 Ibid., 1873, No. 14, pp. 77-78.

24 F.W. Howay, "The Settlement and Progress of British Columbia, 1871-1914," in Historical Essays, p. 26.

25 British Colonist (Victoria), 19 Feb. and 16 April 1871.

26 R.E. Gosnell, Year Book of British Columbia and Manual of Provincial Information (hereafter cited as B.C. Year Book) (Victoria: n.p., 1911), pp. 96-97.

27 Laws and Statutes, 1878, cap. 20, pp. 93-95.

28 Ibid., 1879, cap. 13, pp. 47-48.

29 Judges' opposition led to a protracted dispute between judiciary and legislature not resolved until 1883 when the Supreme Court of Canada rendered a decision in favour of the legislature. This decision was not enforced by Dominion governments, however, which refused to recognize provincial rights to designate judges' place of residence as a means of decentralization. See W.H.P. Clement, "History of the Judicial System," in Canada and its Provinces, ed. A. Shortt and A.G. Doughty (Toronto: T. & A. Constable, 1914), Vol. 22, Pt. 2, p. 393.

30 British Columbia. Parliament, Sessional Papers (hereafter cited as Sessional Papers), 1883-84, "Order in Council," pp. 181-82.

31 Sessional Papers, 1883-84, p. 182.

32 Laws and Statutes, 1883, cap. 5, pp. 11-22.

33 Ibid., 1895, cap. 10, pp. 31-34; cap 12, pp. 37-39.

34 Patricia M. Johnson, "McCreight and the Bench," BCHQ, Vol. 12, No. 3 (July 1948), p. 218.

35 R.E. Gosnell, B.C. Year Book, 1911, p. 97; also F.W. Howay, op. cit., Vol. 2, p. 683.

36 R.E. Gosnell, B.C. Year Book, 1897, p. 128.

37 F.W. Howay, "The Settlement and Progress of British Columbia, 1871-1914," in Historical Essays, p. 32.

38 British Colonist (Victoria), 23 Oct. 1888.

39 The New Westminster building's architect was Nova Scotia-born George W. Grant; the Vancouver Court House, which had the distinction of being the first public building in the province featuring neoclassical elements, was designed by N.S. Hoffar, an American-born architect residing in the city.

40 The architect was Victoria-based A.M. Muir.

41 Sessional Papers, 1896, "Public Works Report," p. 378.

42 Free Press (Nanaimo), 10 Sept. 1895.

43 Although a common plan was employed for the Ashcroft and Comox buildings, most court house designs of the period varied considerably from site to site, suggesting the use of various designers. As construction was frequently supervised by local government agents, it is conceivable they exercised an influence over building design.

44 F.W. Howay, "The Settlement and Progress of British Columbia, 1871-1914," in Historical Essays, p. 32.

45 Both Honeyman and Curtis had considerable experience in ecclesiastic as well as institutional designs. These included St. John's Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, by Honeyman, and Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in Nelson as well as a frame school in Greenwood by Curtis.

46 Canada West Magazine (Summerland, B.C.), Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 8.

47 An identical building was erected at Princeton in 1900; the existing Ashcroft court house as renovated in 1901 also bore a close resemblance.

48 Sessional Papers, 1905, "Public Works Report," C-5.

49 Laws and Statutes, 1905, cap. 13, pp. 53-101.

50 Although attrition resulted in further appointments during the pre-1914 period, the provincial complement of judges stabilized at five in the Supreme Court, eleven in county courts, and four in the courts of appeal (Sessional Papers, 1911, Vol. 45, No. 2, 3, "Admin. of Justice," p. 33).

51 British Columbia. Parliament, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1924, "County Courts Act, R.S. 1911," Vol. 1, cap. 53, pp. 688-89.

52 This was particularly true in the Kootenay region. Cranbrook municipal officials enticed the relocation of court and administrative headquarters for the County of East Kootenay away from the older community of Fort Steele by offering to pay half the cost of a new court house in their town.

53 Prevailing architectural theory appears to have accepted the neoclassical idiom as best suited to large-scale court house design - see, for example, J.B. Noel Wyatt, "The Designing of a Courthouse," in The Brickbuilder, Vol. 16, No. 10 (Oct. 1907), p. 172. While the need for a building of unprecedented size in Vancouver was self-evident, justification for large neoclassical designs in Vernon and Revelstoke was less apparent. Since the two communities were the home ridings of the incumbent ministers of Finance and of Public Works (Price Ellison and Thomas Taylor, respectively), size and in turn design appear to have been politically motivated in these instances.

54 E.A. Lucas, "The New Court House," Advocate (Vancouver), Vol. 9, No. 5 (Sept.-Oct. 1951), p. 156.

55 See, for example, The Brickbuilder, Vol. 16, No. 10 (Oct. 1907), pp. 172-75; Vol. 17, No. 11 (Nov. 1908), pp. 245-51.

56 Canada. Sessional Papers, 1918, Vol. 13, No. 3, Pt. 4, "Administration of Justice," p. 43.

57 Sessional Papers, 1920, Vol. 1, "Public Works Report," organizational chart.

58 Architectural Institute of British Columbia, biographical file no. 25.

59 In two instances, existing buildings were purchased and converted into court houses. In 1923 the Alexandra Hotel in Prince George was acquired and renovated; the former B.C. Express office in Ashcroft was purchased in 1925 and employed as a court house until 1974.

60 Tudor Revival was introduced into the province during the late 1880s by English-trained architects. It became firmly established as a preferred style for upper-class residential housing after the turn of the century, largely through the works of Victoria architect Samuel Maclure. Notable among his designs was Hatley Park, home of James Dunsmuir, former premier of the province, and Government House, residence of the lieutenant-governor (in partnership with

F.M. Rattenbury). By the 1920s Tudor Revival was touted as the most appropriate style for the British Columbia landscape - see Bernard C. Palmer, "Development of Domestic Architecture in British Columbia," in the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vol. 5 (Nov. 1928), pp. 405-16.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Sources

For biographical information on the architects and builders of early Canadian judicial institutions, as well as information on current trends in Canadian architecture, consult these journals: the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Construction and Canadian Architect and Builder. Other important studies are the following:

Green, Edwin M.
"Courthouses." In Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture, ed. Talbot Hamlin, Columbia University Press, New York, 1952. Vol. 3.

Hamlin, Talbot
Architecture Through the Ages. G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1953.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell
Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Penguin Books, London, 1977.

Hoffman, Paul, et al.
Courthouse. E.P. Dutton, New York, 1979.

Johnson, Herbert Allen
Historic Courthouses of New York State, ed. Ralph K. Andrist, Columbia University Press, New York, 1977.

Pare, Richard
"Court houses: County symbols." Historic Preservation, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Oct.-Dec. 1977), pp. 31-37.

Pevsner, Nikolaus
A History of Building Types. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1976.

Ritchie, Thomas
Canada Builds. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1967.

Roos, Frank J. Jr.
"Ohio, Architectural Crossroad," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 12, No. 2 (May 1953), pp. 3-8.

Whiffen, Marcus
"The Early Courthouses of Virginia." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Mar. 1959), pp. 2-10.
---. American Architecture Since 1870: A Guide to the Styles. M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

Wyatt, J.B. Noel
"The Designing of a Courthouse." Brickbuilder, Vol. 16, No. 10 (Oct. 1907), pp. 172-75 and Vol. 17, No. 11 (Nov. 1908), pp. 245-51.

Newfoundland

The theses and semiannual reports submitted to Memorial University in St. John's and to the Maritime History Group helped to provide the historical context in which these buildings were constructed. Reference should also be made to the Statutes of Great Britain and Newfoundland; the Journals, Sessional Papers and Estimates of the Newfoundland House of Assembly; and the court house plans held by the Newfoundland Department of Public Works.

Anspach, L.G.
History of the Island of Newfoundland and Containing a Description of the Island, the Banks, the Fisheries and Trade. N.p., London, 1819.

Crook, J.M. and M.H. Post
The History of the King's Works. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1973. Vol. 6, 1782-1851.

Hamilton, William B.
Local History in Atlantic Canada. Macmillan, Toronto, 1974.

Hopkins, Lloyd W.
"The Boom in Federal Building." In The Book

of Newfoundland, ed. J.R. Smallwood, Newfoundland Book Publishers, St. John's, 1967.

Matthews, Keith
Lectures on the History of Newfoundland 1500-1830. Memorial University, St. John's, 1973.

Morley, William F.
Atlantic Provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1967.

Mosdell, H.M.
"Ten Towns in Newfoundland." In The Book of Newfoundland, ed. J.R. Smallwood, Newfoundland Book Publishers, St. John's, 1975. Vol. 6.

Newfoundland. Archives.
Papers of the Colonial Office
GN2/2, Incoming Correspondence
GN1/1/3, Outward Correspondence
GN2/5, Papers of the Colonial Secretary's Department
GB2/2, Correspondence Received by the Secretary of State Department of Public Works, Transcripts of Minutes

O'Neill, Paul
The Oldest City. Press Porcepic, Erin, 1975.
---. A Seaport Legacy - The Story of St. John's Newfoundland. Press Porcepic, Erin, 1976.

Prowse, D.W.
History of Newfoundland from the English, Colonial and Foreign Records. Macmillan and Co., London, 1895.

Reeves, John
History of the Government of the Island of Newfoundland. J. Sewell, London, 1793.

Rostecki, R.R.
The Early Court Houses of Newfoundland. Manuscript Report Series No. 312, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Withers, J.W.
"St. John's Over a Century Ago." In When Was What, ed. H.M. Mosdell, Robinson-Blackmore, St. John's, 1974.

Prince Edward Island

Reference should be made to the Journals, Laws, Statutes and Debates of the Prince Edward Island legislature; the annual reports of the Prince Edward Island Department of Public Works; and three newspapers being published when construction of the court houses in Prince Edward Island began: the Patriot, Examiner and Royal Gazette, all in Charlottetown.

Campbell, Duncan
History of Prince Edward Island. Bremner Brothers, Charlottetown, 1875.
---. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Prince Edward Island. J.H. Meachan, Toronto, 1880.

Canada. Public Archives.
MG9, Prince Edward Island Executive Council Minutes

Clark, Andrew Hill
Three Centuries and the Island: A Historical Geography of Settlement and Agriculture in Prince Edward Island, Canada. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1959.

MacKinnon, Frank
The Government of Prince Edward Island. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1974.

Prince Edward Island. Public Archives.
RG11, Records of the Department of Public Works, Judge Alley-Henry Smith's Collection (including the Isaac Smith Papers) and the Ira Brown Collection.

Taylor, C.J.
The Early Court Houses of Prince Edward Island. Manuscript Report Series No. 289, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Nova Scotia

The collection of early photographs found in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and at the Nova Scotia Museum are useful sources of information on the construction of the early court houses of Nova Scotia, as well as the

records held by various municipal offices and judicial institutions in the province, and newspapers such as the Novascotian, Acadian Recorder and Maritime Advance and Busy East, all in Halifax.

Beck, J. Murray
"The Evolution of Municipal Government in Nova Scotia 1749-1973." Manuscript on file, Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Education, Public Services and Provincial-Municipal Relations, Government of Nova Scotia, Sept. 1973.

Fergusson, Charles Bruce
The Boundaries of Nova Scotia and its Counties. Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, 1966.

Hale, C.A.
The Early Court Houses of Nova Scotia. Manuscript Report Series No. 293, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Hamilton, William B.
Local History in Atlantic Canada. Macmillan, Toronto, 1974.

Harris, W.H.
"The County Jail and Court House." Pictou Advocate, 29 Mar. 1951, p. 4.

Nova Scotia. House of Assembly.
Statutes of Nova Scotia. John S. Thompson, Halifax, 1852.
---. Place-Names and Places of Nova Scotia. Mika, Belleville, 1976.

Nova Scotia. Public Archives.
Township Records; RG4, Series R; RG5, Series GP; RG34 and RG35

New Brunswick

Further information and photographs of the early court houses may be found in the archives of The New Brunswick Museum and in the records of the Historical Resources Administration in Fredericton. The Carleton County Historical Society holds the Carleton County records; the University of New Brunswick Archives in Fredericton holds the minutes of York County council meetings. Photographs obtained from local photographers and interviews conducted in the field complement the information gathered. The main newspapers to be consulted are the Royal Gazette (Fredericton) and the Maritime Monthly (Saint John).

Ganong, William F.
"A Monograph of the Origins of Settlement in New Brunswick." Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 2nd ser., Vol. 10 (1904), Sect. 2, Ottawa.

Hale, C.A.
The Early Court Houses of New Brunswick. Manuscript Report Series No. 290, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

MacNutt, W.S.
New Brunswick, a History: 1784-1867. Macmillan, Toronto, 1963.

New Brunswick. Provincial Archives.
RG2 (RS6, RS8) and RG18, Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

Whalen, H.J.
The Development of Local Government in New Brunswick. University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, 1963.

Wright, Esther Clark
The Loyalists of New Brunswick. Published by the author, Fredericton, 1955.

Quebec

Notaries' records kept in Quebec superior courts should be consulted for information on construction contracts of recent judicial institutions. The minutes of the various county council meetings are the major source of information on county court houses. In addition, Public Archives Canada in Ottawa and Archives nationales du Québec in Quebec City possess old photographs; the archives of the Ministère des Travaux publics in Quebec holds correspondence, specifications and records pertaining to the district and certain county

court houses; and the Archives nationales holds various construction contracts relating to the earlier court houses.

Audette, Louis-Arthur and T.W.S. Dunn, comps.
Almanach judiciaire de la province de Québec. N.P., Quebec, 1888.

Bourinot, John George
How Canada is Governed: a Short Account of its Executive, Legislative, Judicial and Municipal Institutions with an Historical Outline of their Origin and Development. Copp, Toronto, 1895.

Boyer, Raymond
Les crimes et les châtiments au Canada français du XVII^e au XX^e siècle. Le Cercle du Livre de France, Montreal, 1966.

Canada. Department of Public Works.
General Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the Year Ending 30th June, 1867. Hunter, Rose & Co., Ottawa, 1868.

Canada. Parliament.
Acte des municipalités et des chemins de 1855 et certains actes y relatifs. Stewart Derbishire and Georges Desbarats, Quebec, 1855.
---. Statutes Regulating the Judicature of Lower Canada, Caps. 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, passed 3rd Session, 1st Parliament of Canada, 7 Victoria, 1843. Stewart Derbishire and Georges Desbarats. Quebec, 1843.

Canada (Province)
Les Actes et ordonnances revisés du Bas-Canada. Stewart Derbishire and Georges Desbarats, Quebec, 1845.

Canada. Public Archives.
RG11, Correspondence and records pertaining to court houses built in Quebec before 1867, vols. 1-282

Giroux, André
Les palais de justice de la province de Québec, de ses origines au début du vingtième siècle. Travail inédit n° 294, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Marsan, Jean-Claude
Montréal en évolution historique du développement de l'architecture et de l'environnement montréalais. Fides, Montreal, 1974.

Morley, William F. et al., eds.
La Province de Québec. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1971.

Québec. Ministère des Travaux publics.
Rapport général du ministre des Travaux publics de la province de Québec 1957. Queen's Printer, Quebec, 1957.

Roy, Pierre-Georges
Les juges de la province de Québec. R. Paradis, Quebec, 1933.

Ontario

The Ministry of Government Services at Queen's Park holds the plans for recent improvements to northern Ontario court houses, as well as complete records. The county councils have kept copies of the minutes of meetings pertaining to court houses constructed after 1850. Some copies, however, are held by archives; for example, Victoria County gave its earliest ones to the archives at Trent University at Peterborough. The City of Toronto Archives and the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library have the plans for the court house designed by E.J. Lennox in 1889. The J.C.B. and E.C. Horwood Collection in the Archives of Ontario includes the original plans for court houses in Ontario, York, Victoria, Haldimand and Wentworth counties (Wentworth has since been demolished), as well as plans for the additions made to Osgoode Hall. The picture section of the Archives of Ontario holds the reconstruction plans for the Eastern District Court House, whereas those for the Niagara District Court House are in the Kirby Collection.

Aitchison, J.H.
"The Development of Local Government in Upper Canada 1783-1850." Ph.D. thesis, University of Toronto, Toronto, 1953.

Aitken, Barbara B.
Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities

1951-1977. Ontario Library Associations, Toronto, 1978.

Canada. Public Archives.
MG9, D8-8, Information on Eastern District (now the combined counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry) court houses built before 1850
RG5, A1, Correspondence of the Civil Secretary (Upper Canada Sundries)

Crossman, Kelly
The Early Court Houses of Ontario. Manuscript Report Series No. 295, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1978.

Morley, William F.
Ontario and the Canadian North. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1978.

Ontario. Archives.
RG15, Records of the Department of Public Works
RG21, RG22, Municipal Records Collection
J.C.B. and E.C. Horwood Collection
Kirby Collection

Manitoba

The province's local newspapers establish the historical context of buildings for which the archives of the provincial Department of Public Works has the records. The renovations made to these buildings are documented in the annual reports of the Department of Public Works, except for 1824-30 for which reports are not available. The Provincial Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg has early photographs of the province's court houses.

Artibise, Alan F.J.
Western Canada Since 1870: A Select Bibliography and Guide. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, 1978.

Begg, Alexander and Walter R. Nursey
Ten Years in Winnipeg. Times Print, Winnipeg, 1879.

Boam, J.H.
The Prairie Provinces of Canada. Sells, London, 1914.

Canadian (Neepewa)
June 1884-March 1885.

Empire (Morden)
1904-6.

Gibson, Dale and Lee
Substantial Justice: Law and Lawyers in Manitoba, 1670-1970. Peguis Publishers, Winnipeg, 1970.

Gunn, Donald and Charles R. Tuttle
History of Manitoba. Maclean, Roger and Co., Ottawa, 1880.

Hargrave, J.J.
Red River. John Lovell, Montreal, 1871.

Herald (Dauphin)
1915-17.

Herald and Mining News (The Pas)
1916-17.

Jackson, James C.
The Centennial History of Manitoba. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1970.

Journal (Emerson)
1907.

Macoun, John
Manitoba and the Great North-West. World Publishing, Guelph, 1882.

Manitoba. Provincial Government.
Statutes. Brice M. Howard, Winnipeg, 1883.
---. Sessional Papers, No. 18 and 29, King's Printer, Winnipeg, 1910.

Oliver, G.H., ed.
The Canadian North-West, Its Early Development. Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1915.

Peel, Bruce, comp.
A Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953: With Biographical Index. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1956.

Rostecki, R.R.
The Early Court Houses of Manitoba. Manuscript Report Series No. 285, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Schofield, F.H.
The Story of Manitoba. S.S. Clarke, Winnipeg, 1913.

Weekly Review (Portage la Prairie)
1894-95.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Archives holds the records of the Department of Public Works containing the history of surviving court houses in Saskatchewan, as well as early photographs of court houses and information on architects Storey and Van Egmond. Information on Saskatchewan's court houses after 1907 is found in reports published by the provincial government. Information on the beginning of construction of and alterations to Saskatchewan court houses is found in local newspapers and yearbooks.

Black, Norman F.
History of Saskatchewan and the North-West Territories. The Saskatchewan Historical Co., Regina, 1913.

Boam, J.H.
The Prairie Provinces of Canada. Sells, London, 1914.

Canada. Department of Public Works.
Annual Reports, 1894-1916. Ottawa.

Canada. Laws, Statutes, etc.
Statutes, 1886-1907. King's/Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

Canada. Parliament.
Sessional Papers, 1886-1907. King's/Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

Gibson, Dale and Lee
Substantial Justice: Law and Lawyers in Manitoba 1670-1970. Peguis Publishers, Winnipeg, 1970.

Lingard, C. Cecil
Territorial Government in Canada. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1946.

Northwest Territories. Government.
Sessional Papers and Statutes. Queen's Printer, Regina, 1899.

Public Service Monthly (Regina)
Dec. 1912, Feb. and Mar. 1913, Aug. and Sept. 1914, Apr. and Aug. 1915, Oct. 1916, Nov. 1926. Government Printer, Regina.

Ross, Alexander
The Red River Settlement. Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1957.

Rostecki, R.R.
The Early Court Houses of Saskatchewan. Manuscript Report Series No. 306, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Saskatchewan. Provincial Government.
Public Accounts, 1907-9. Government Printer, Regina.
---. Sessional Papers and Statutes, 1907-40. Government Printer, Regina, 1908-41.

Thomas, Lewis H.
The Struggle for Responsible Government in the North-West Territories 1870-97. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1956.

Alberta

The Department of Public Works' correspondence and records compiled on Alberta court houses are held in the provincial archives at Edmonton in the public works document collection; the plans for the court houses are in the public works map library. The Alberta Culture Division of the provincial archives, the Department of Public Works and the Glenbow-Alberta Institute have photographs of several Alberta court houses.

Alberta. Department of Public Works.
Annual Reports. King's Printer, Edmonton, 1907-31.

Alberta. Provincial Government.
Orders in Council and Statutes. King's Printer, Edmonton, 1906-31.
---. Sessional Papers and Legislative Journals. King's Printer, Edmonton, 1907-31.

Aritibise, Alan F.J.
Western Canada Since 1870: A Select Bibliography and Guide. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, 1978.

Canada. Laws, Statutes, etc.
Statutes of Canada, 1873. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1874.

Canada. Parliament.
Sessional Papers, 1904-5. King's Printer, Ottawa, 1905-6.

Canada. Public Archives.
RG11, Vol. 3886. Information on the early court house at Fort McLeod.

Harvey, Horace
"Some Notes on the Early Administration of Justice in Canada's Northwest." Alberta Historical Review, Vol. 1 (Nov. 1953), pp. 5-20.

Independent (Stettler)
March 19, 1914.

MacGregor, James G.
A History of Alberta. N.p., Edmonton, 1972.

Macleod, R.C.
The Northwest Mounted Police and Law Enforcement, 1873-1905. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1976.

Mills, Edward
The Early Court Houses of Alberta. Manuscript Report Series No. 310, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Peel, Bruce
A Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953: With Bibliographical Index. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1956.

Poole, Colin
"Identification of Mounted Police Outposts in Southern Alberta." In Men in Scarlet, ed. H.A. Dempsey, n.p., Calgary, 1975.

Thomas, Lewis H.
The Struggle for Responsible Government in the North-West Territories 1870-97. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1956.

British Columbia

For information on the development of the judicial system in British Columbia consult the Laws and Statutes and Sessional Papers of British Columbia and the annual reports of the provincial Department of Public Works. The local historical societies, directories and fire insurance plans provide relevant information, as well as judges, clerks of the court and government agents connected with the provincial judicial system. The Historic Parks and Sites Branch of the British Columbia Department of Recreation and Conservation and the Architectural Institute of British Columbia in Vancouver are other sources of information concerning the builders of judicial institutions in the province.

British Columbia. Provincial Archives.
75-G-65, Public Works Records.

Edwards, Margaret H. and John C. Lunt
Years of Growth, 1900-1950. University of Victoria, Victoria, 1975. Vols. 2 and 3.

Farr, David M.L.
"The Organization of the Judicial System of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1849-1871." B.A. essay, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 1944.

Friesen, J. and H.K. Ralston, eds.
Historical Essays on British Columbia. McLelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1976.

Gosnell, R.E.
Year Book of British Columbia and Manual of Provincial Information. N.p., Victoria, 1911.

Graham Brawn and Associates
Court Facilities Inventory. Graham Brawn and Associates, Vancouver, 1974.

Howay, F.W. and E.O.S. Scholefield, eds.
British Columbia, from the Earliest Times to the Present. S.J. Clarke Pub., Vancouver, 1914.

Lawther, Barbara J.
Laying the Foundations. University of Victoria, Victoria, 1968.

Mills, Edward
The Early Court Houses of British Columbia. Manuscript Report Series No. 288, 2 vols., Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Prospector (Fort Steele)
July-Oct. 1897.

Sage, Walter N.
"British Columbia Becomes Canadian, 1871-1901." Queen's Quarterly, Vol. 52 (1945), pp. 168-83.

Northwest Territories and the Yukon

For information on the development of the judicial system in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon consult the Sessional Papers, Statutes and Orders in Council published by the Federal Government, the reports by the Department of the Interior and by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 1896-1905. The archives of the Department of Public Works has the plans for the early judicial buildings of Dawson. Photographs may be seen in Public Archives Canada, the Provincial Archives in British Columbia and in the private collection of Mr. T.G. Fuller in Ottawa.

Advisory Commission on the Development of Government in the Northwest Territories
Report. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1966. Vol. I.

Bethune, B.C., comp.
Canada's Western Northland: its History, Resources, Population and Administration. King's Printer, Ottawa, 1937.

Bovey, John A.
"Attitudes and Policies of the Federal Government Towards Canada's Northern Territories: 1870-1930." M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 1967.

Canada. Public Archives.
RG11, Archives of the Department of Public Works, 1895-1950
RG91, Archives of the Yukon Territory, 1895-1950

Carter, Margaret and Margaret Archibald
The Early Court Houses of the Yukon. Manuscript Report Series No. 311, Parks Canada, Ottawa, 1977.

Galpin, P.C.
"A Day in the Police Court." In Smiles and Tears from the Klondyke: A Collection of Stories and Sketches, ed. R.R. Crane, Doxey's, New York, 1901.

Northwest Territories. Department of Public Works.
Annual Reports, 1900-55.

Northwest Territories. Department of the Interior.
The Yukon Territory: its History and Resources. Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1907.